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UNEASY RELIEF

Father of Ceira Lynn McGrath relieved to hear charges laid in daughter's death

metroNEWS

Ryan McGrath said his son Colby helps him stay positive in light of the death of Colby's twin sister Ceira Lynn. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

metro EXCLUSIVE

Poll: Notley approval rating slides

POLITICS

Voters are feeling 'buyers remorse'

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Premier Rachel Notley's approval rating has sunk to new lows, according to a Think HQ/Metro exclusive poll.

Her overall approval rating is sitting at 37 per cent.

That number is made up of those who strongly and somewhat approve of her performance. Poll participants were also given the choice of somewhat or strongly disapprove.

"What's interesting about the intensity is that you've got more people who strongly disapprove than actually approve of her overall," said Marc Henry, president of ThinkHQ.

Those who strongly disapprove of the premier sat at 41 per cent, while her overall disapproval rating was 54 per cent.

The Think HQ poll asked how poll participants had voted in the last election. It found that nearly one quarter of NDP voters polled now disapprove of Notley's leadership: "There's been a bit of buyer's remorse from some of them," said Henry.

The numbers also delve into geographic locations. In the NDP's Edmonton stronghold, Notley's approval is much stronger, sitting at 51 per cent.

Henry noted that Notley's approval has trended down from a high of 60 per cent just after the May 2015 election.

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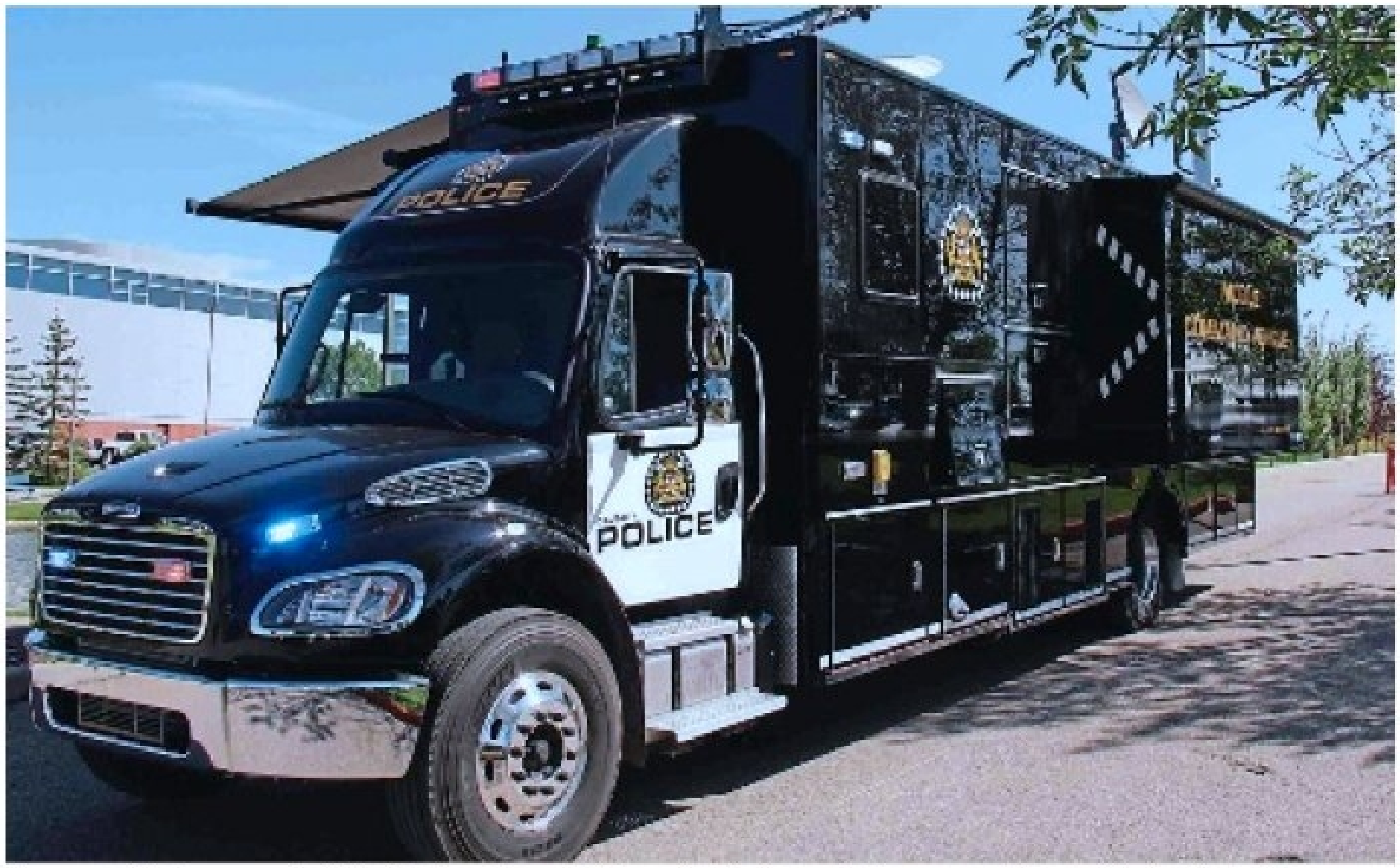
Your essential daily news

No shirt needed: Justin Trudeau chest can't help getting the international media's attention. **Canada**

Flood funds get police rolling



The new Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) can be used during a live incident or during a natural disaster like the floods that ravaged the city in 2013. LUCIE EDWARDSON / METRO

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Resiliency program used for command centre vehicle

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Police Service will begin deploying their new Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) this week, thanks to the Flood Resiliency Program funding approved by city council in 2014.

According to CPS, this two-year initiative was identified as a critical need following the 2013 southern Alberta flood, when parts of Calgary were devastated by a deluge of water, and a mobile support vehicle was deemed essential in similar disasters.

While $1.3 million was earmarked for the MCV, the CPS came in under budget at $900,000. The $400,000 not used by CPS will return to the city's Flood Resiliency Program.

The cash for the MCV was identified through The City of Calgary's Flood Recovery Task Force, which identified areas of need across the city.

"The necessity for a MCV was classified as a community priority, based on its ability to provide command and logistic support at a disaster site," said Deputy Chief Ray Robitaille.

After a request for proposal in spring 2015 for an MCV that would suit the service's specific needs, MBF Industries of Florida was selected.

Additionally, seven CPS members assisted with custom building the vehicle.

"The vehicle required several unique specifications," said Robitaille.

"It had to be multi-functional, capable of deploying in natural disasters and emergencies including floods and major fires, as well as large community gatherings and events, and it had to be fully functional for search and rescue situations.

> It had to be multi-functional, capable of deploying in natural disasters and emergencies.
> Deputy Chief Ray Robitaille

"It also was designed to facilitate an incident command team in the event of prolonged, high-risk situations where space is required for police negotiators to operate if required."

According to CPS, the chassis is Freightliner and the body was custom designed by MBF and comes with a lifetime warranty.

It has the technological capabilities to access existing CPS networks, as well as the HAWCS downlink.

Robitaille said a unique characteristic of the vehicle include its re-mountable body, which allows for the chassis to be replaced in the coming years for any wear and tear, extending the life of the investment.

The MCV was one of approximately 50 projects identified following the 2013 flood to help bolster community resiliency to future disasters.

IN BRIEF

Facebook leads police to probe officer conduct

Lethbridge police are investigating an allegation of police misconduct circulating on Facebook.

A young man posted photos and videos on his own Facebook page alleging he was assaulted by several officers while out for a run in the night.

The police said this case is considered unique "as the comments allege misconduct by numerous officers" and an investigation would be in the public interest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sibling grizzly bears dead

Brother and sister grizzly bears are dead after being relocated away from Cochrane, Alta. Provincial officials say the male bear was put down and the female died after being hit by a semi-truck on the highway between Cochrane and Canmore.

The bears were relocated after getting into chicken coops and other food sources near Cochrane.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex assault trial delayed

Nicholas Hanson, a 37-year-old drama professor in southern Alberta charged with sexually assaulting a student has had his court case put over Sept 8. He was arrested in May. Police allege he assaulted a 23-year-old woman at an off-campus event in December 2014.

He is suspended with pay pending the outcome of the case. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents should expect more road construction, city says

INFRASTRUCTURE

July rains lead to August traffic snarls on three routes

If you're commuting to work this month, you may want to look at alternate routes.

The city is launching three large scale projects that are ramping up in August at 14 Street N.W., John Laurie Boulevard N.W. and Macleod Trail S.E.

The projects would've been started in July, but the city says the unusual rainfall means the window for completion has been considerably shortened.

The city also warns that weather could further delay any of the projects.

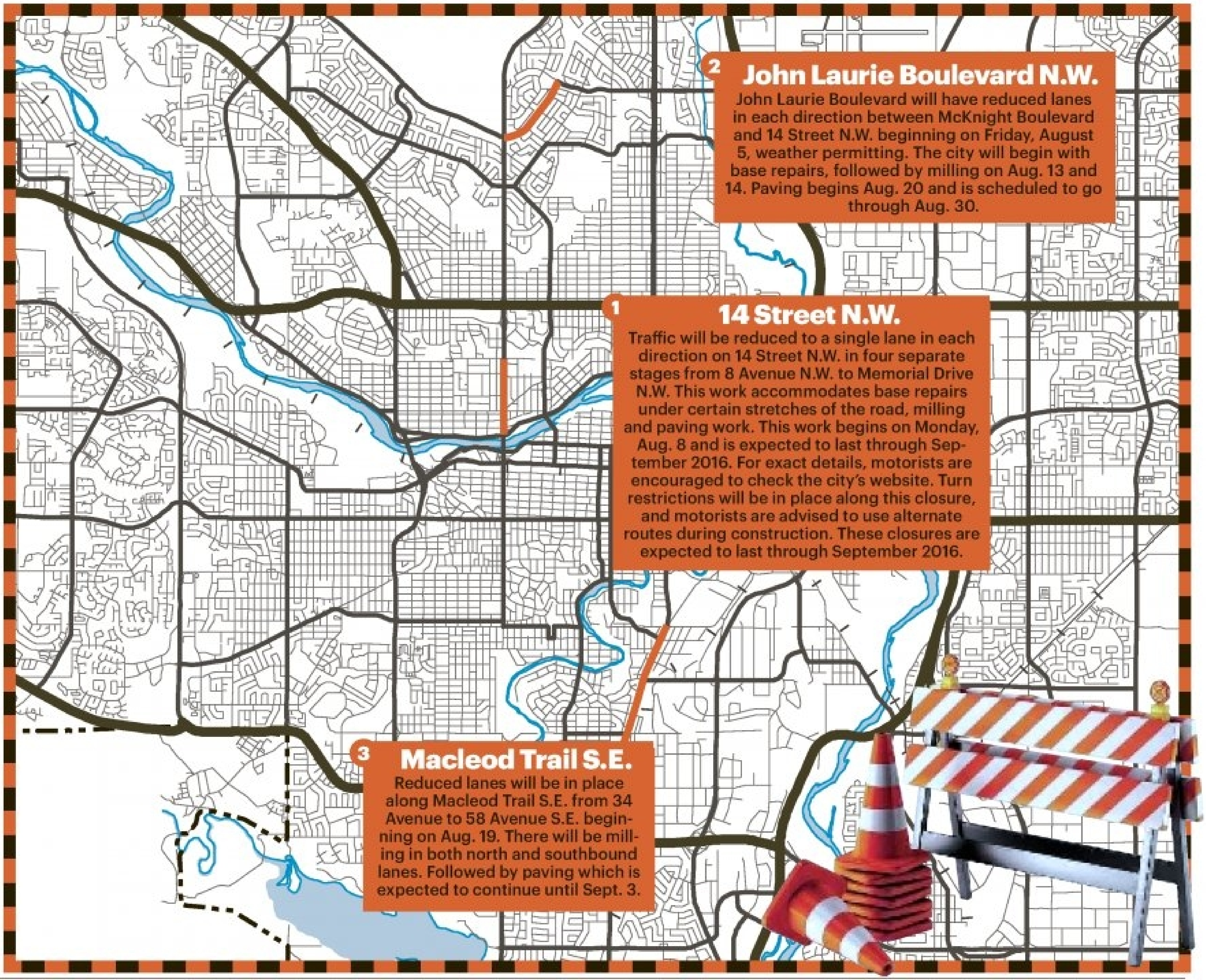
Roads Construction Manager Barry Poon said the work is necessary to keep traffic running smoothly.

"The City of Calgary prides itself on using good materials and keeping our roads in good condition through proper preventative maintenance and rehabilitation. Major thoroughfares like 14 Street N.W., John Laurie Boulevard N.W. and Macleod Trail S.E. are rehabilitated every 12 to 15 years," he said.

He added that this year, the city and its contracted partners are working on 12 major projects compared with six or seven they usually tackle in a typical season.

For more information on paving projects, visit Calgary.ca/paving and scroll down to the "Larger road construction projects" section.

METRO



2 John Laurie Boulevard N.W.

John Laurie Boulevard will have reduced lanes in each direction between McKnight Boulevard and 14 Street N.W. beginning on Friday, August 5, weather permitting. The city will begin with base repairs, followed by milling on Aug. 13 and 14. Paving begins Aug. 20 and is scheduled to go through Aug. 30.

1 14 Street N.W.

Traffic will be reduced to a single lane in each direction on 14 Street N.W. in four separate stages from 8 Avenue N.W. to Memorial Drive N.W. This work accommodates base repairs under certain stretches of the road, milling and paving work. This work begins on Monday, Aug. 8 and is expected to last through September 2016. For exact details, motorists are encouraged to check the city's website. Turn restrictions will be in place along this closure, and motorists are advised to use alternate routes during construction. These closures are expected to last through September 2016.

3 Macleod Trail S.E.

Reduced lanes will be in place along Macleod Trail S.E. from 34 Avenue to 58 Avenue S.E. beginning on Aug. 19. There will be milling in both north and southbound lanes. Followed by paving which is expected to continue until Sept. 3.

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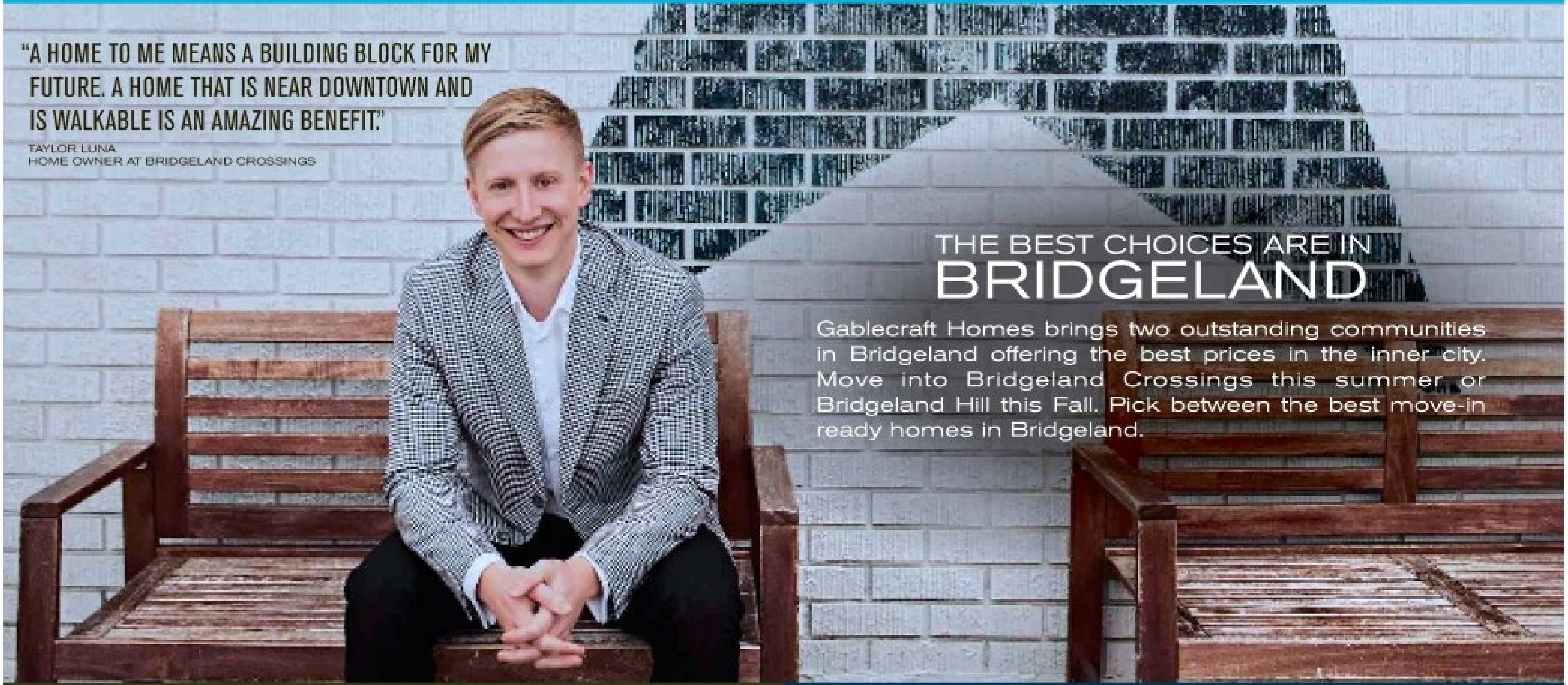

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ALISON REDFORD

Second look at conflict-of-interest case

British Columbia's conflict of interest commissioner will re-investigate former premier Alison Redford's link to a lucrative tobacco litigation contract.

In early 2016, it became clear that details that may have been important about the case, which made headlines several years ago, were not available to the Alberta ethics commissioner when he investigated it back in 2013.

That investigation determined Redford had not broken Alberta's conflict of interest laws.

The case links to the Alberta government's awarding of a litigation contract for a $10-billion lawsuit against the tobacco industry to a Calgary law firm — one that Redford has personal and political ties to. This spring, the Alberta ethics commissioner followed a recommendation from former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci to review the matter by passing it to the B.C. Conflict of Interest commissioner, due to potential conflicts of interest.

In a letter to Minister of Justice Kathleen Ganley, dated Aug. 3, Paul Fraser, B.C.'s conflict commissioner, says that he has "determined that a re-investigation is warranted based on new information that was revealed …"

Fraser adds: "My decision to re-investigate should not be interpreted as a finding about the propriety of the conduct of the Honourable Alison Redford."

Details of Fraser's impending investigation have yet to be shared. METRO

> “ My decision to re-investigate should not be interpreted as a finding about the propriety of the conduct of the Honourable Alison Redford. Paul Fraser

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The City of Calgary is working with the federal government as a stakeholder in the marijuana legislation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bylaw is for tobacco only

SMOKING

Legalized pot could mean changes to city regulations

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's smoking bylaw may not yet pass the puff test when it comes to marijuana regulation.

On Wednesday, a Calgary woman facing several charges for smoking in a bus shelter didn't pay a cent to the city because she was medicating with medical marijuana.

Her lawyer pointed out part of the reason the city withdrew charges was because of the tobacco laden language in the bylaw.

The city's smoking bylaw, which bans puffing in public places, was passed in 2006 and reinforced by the Tobacco Reduction act in 2008.

But pot isn't tobacco.

According to the city's chief bylaw officer Alvin Murray there's no section or listed exemption for medical marijuana or recreational use, because the bylaw simply isn't about marijuana at all.

And that's why the City of Calgary is now actively working with all levels of government to have their say while the feds inch towards legalizing marijuana.

"The federal government is working on a paper to potentially legalize the use of marijuana, the current city smoking bylaw covers the use of tobacco products, but doesn't include marijuana," Murray said. "We're helping the federal government understand any impacts that may be at a municipal level."

Murray said the city isn't waiting, they're actively engaged in assisting with input. But so far, his first meeting on the matter was Thursday.

In its current state, the bylaw states: "no person shall carry or possess a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe, or burn tobacco in any manner or use an electronic smoking device."

If legalized, Murray said pot could come with many changes for the city's current bylaws including land-use designations for dispensaries. But the extent of the bylaw tweaks — if any — aren't known yet.

But he said the city is ready to point out things the feds will need to look at and address when they consider rolling out legislation.

"You're talking from a policing point of view, there could be criminal impacts," Murray said. His list of possible implications included transit, parks and many other city regulated facades. "There's many, many aspects that will come to light if this moves forward."

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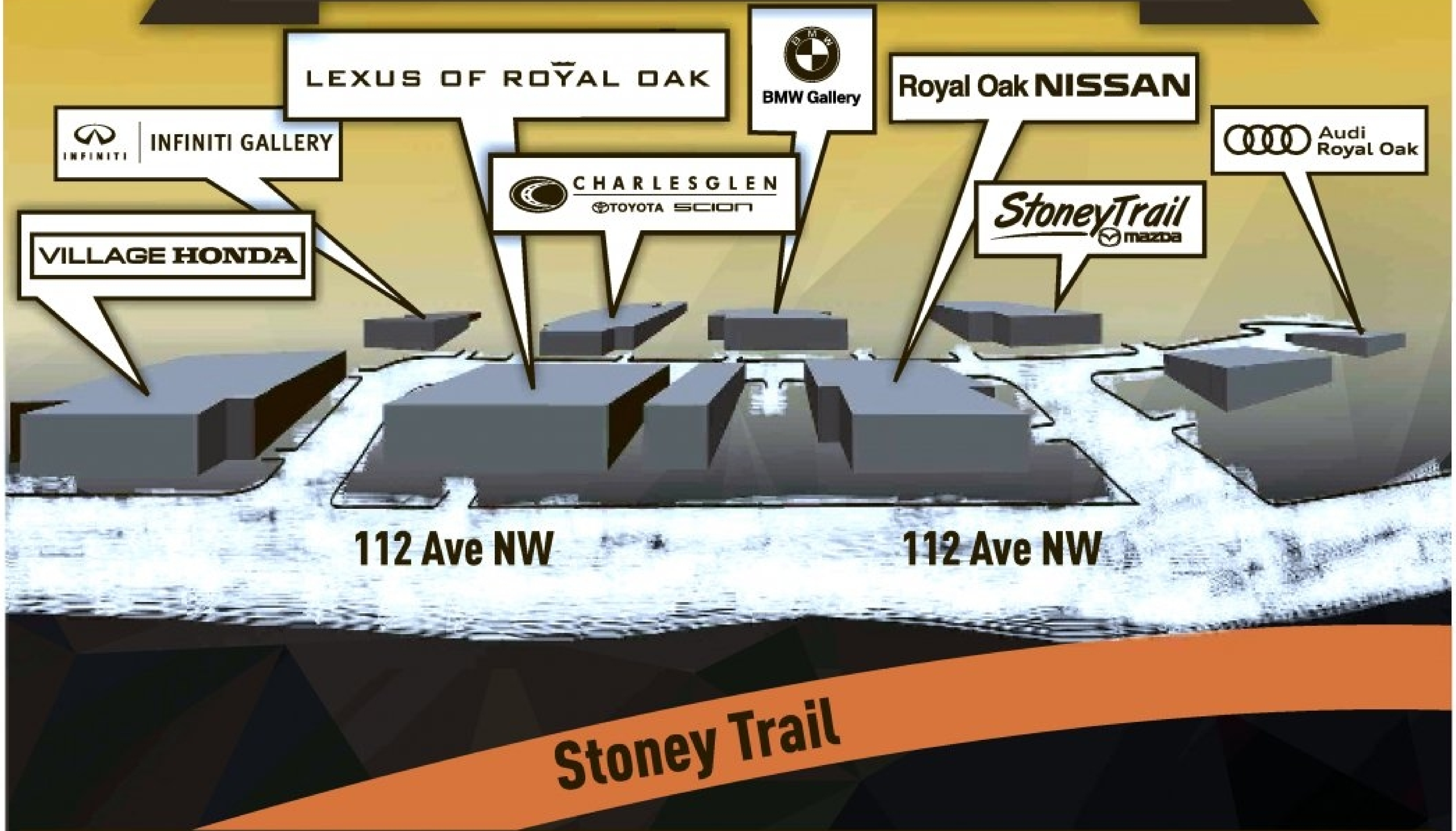
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Government promises to re-evaluate interchange

INFRASTRUCTURE

SE Calgary project needed to develop area, councillor says

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Brian Mason says the government will take another look at a proposed $50-million SE Calgary interchange, after it initially said it wouldn't fund the critical project that unlocks $465 million-worth of investment.

On Monday, Metro obtained an internal city memo that said the province told the city the 212 avenue and Deerfoot Trail interchange, located in Seton, isn't a high priority at this time and it couldn't commit to funding now or in the future.

The no-commitment comment irked Coun. Shane Keating because the former Progressive Conservative government says it pledged funding in its 2014-15 capital plan.

"I'm flabbergasted by this decision. Very little of it can be developed until we get the transportation needs," Keating said, noting the area is home to the South Health Campus and a fire station.

"The 212 interchange was key to seeing that whole area develop, and the city has tons of infrastructure money put into the area."

PRIVATE PROPERTY
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The southeast Calgary community of Seton is home to the South Health Campus, a fire hall and businesses. The city hopes to redevelop the land to allow more residential units.
JEREMY SIMES / FOR METRO

After the government shot down the city's initial proposal, the city asked the province if it would entertain an agreement where the city would pay for the provincial project as long as it's repaid by the government by 2024.

Initially, it appeared the government wasn't a fan of the repayment idea, according to Keating, as the memo gave no clear indication the province would repay the city.

"I would say this project is no longer a candidate for immediate advancement in 2016," said the memo. "This is obviously a disappointment for both the city and Brookfield."

Brookfield Residential is a home development company.

To further develop Seton, Keating said the building plan would see Brookfield and the city together front a no-strings-attached $20 million, and the city would pay for the other $30 million as long as it knows when it will be repaid by the province.

"The province didn't have to put a dime in today," Keating said. "All they'd have to do is tell the city when they'd get paid back on the $30 million."

After learning the details of the new proposal, Mason said he intends to meet with both parties about the proposal.

But he said the government's decision of not paying for 60 per cent of the project may remain the same.

"The financial position is such that some of these projects will have to be deferred," he said.

And although the Seton overpass wasn't part of the government's initial plans, Mason noted the province has committed to "higher priority" plans in Calgary, like the SW Ring Road, the new Cancer Centre and the Springbank flood mitigation projects.

"Those are three, very large and expensive capital projects," he said. "We also have requests to consider matching federal funding for the Green Line LRTS project, and that's all in Calgary, and then there's the rest of the province that has badly needed infrastructure projects."

But during the PCs reign, the former government said they had capital funding allocated for the project as the overpass would be under government jurisdiction because Deerfoot Trail is a provincial road.

Rick Fraser, PC MLA for the riding of Calgary South East, said funding the project makes sense as it'd create jobs during the economic slump.

He said the halting the overpass essentially land-locks 28,000 jobs and $465 million in investment.

RACIST SLUR

Cyclist gets an apology

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

It was a moment of reconciliation in a whirlwind week for Bashir Mohamed.

The Edmonton cyclist has dominated local headlines since last Friday, when he was riding his bike on the street and alleges an angry motorist called him a "N***er" — a word that was repeated to him later in the same day.

On Tuesday, the man involved in the second incident reached out to him to apologize.

Mohamed posted a picture of their shaking hands on social media, writing that the two had met and then united in a public call against racism and discrimination.

"I felt he wanted to reconcile and I felt it was sincere," Mohamed told Metro.

Mohamed has been flooded by support and threats on social media since he posted a video of the first altercation online.

Police are investigating and the man caught on film from the first incident is expected to issue an apology. Whether or not it turns out to be sincere, Mohamed said the process is important on a symbolic level.

"In the end, the people who harbour these views are people who live beside us, people who work with us, people who just go through their everyday lives," he said.

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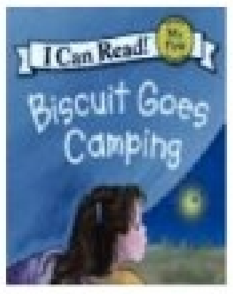
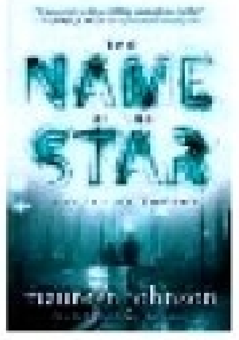
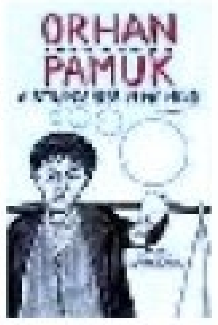


Biscuit Goes Camping by Alyssa Capucilli
Easy reader. 2015. The latest in the popular easy reader series about a lovable dog named Biscuit. Will Biscuit be brave enough to spend the night in a tent?



The Name of the Star by Maureen Johnson
Fiction. 2011. Rory has just come to London for school when a series of gruesome murders begin, exact copies of Jack the Ripper's murders. Rory sees the killer—but why is she the only one who can?



A Strangeness In My Mind by Orhan Pamuk
Fiction. 2015. Pamuk's second novel since winning the Nobel Prize, is another hefty door-stopper of a book, bringing us into Istanbul's underground through the eyes of a struggling street vendor.

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ANIMALS

Social media barks up treats for online canine models

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

A year and a half ago, Calgary biomedical engineer Nithya Reddy never thought she would go mutts over a mutt.

But go mutts she did.

She brought home a German Shepherd named Bouncer, and soon found herself making homemade treats, collars, bandanas and more for her furry little girl.

When she decided to put Bouncer on Instagram, she became the first canine model for The Woof Gang Shop, a home business Reddy started to support her newfound passion for making dog accessories.

Soon she recruited more local models to show off her fetching gear.

"I don't do any promotion outside of Instagram — I don't even go to any Calgary markets, so this really helps with word of mouth," she said.

Bouncer alone has more than 27,000 followers.

The Pupparazzi

Olga Gossen typically isn't stopped going down the street. But her pal Romeo the Doberman is. Romeo has more 12,000 followers on Instagram, and Gossen said he's often recognized by owners who yell out his name.

Among other modelling gigs, Romeo models for The Woof Gang Shop, wearing their apparel on his Instagram. Because of the modelling gigs, Romeo gets a number of perks — from giving out discount codes, to culminating a pawstively enormous closet.

"He actually has more collars and leashes than I have shoes," laughed Gossen. "Because he looks so adorable in all of them."

Gossen decided to create an Instagram account for Romeo because her friends were overwhelmed by the amount of puppy pictures posted on her regular account, but never imagined it would result in fame and (relative) fortune.

Up-and-comer Jasper the Pomsky, with his near-9,000 followers, is more shy than his fellow model Romeo, making fame a bit of a bitter kibble to swallow.

"Once he does warm up, he's quite energized — he'll be in your face until you pet him or give him rubs," said his owner Rodson Garcia. They usually take photos ruffing it in nature.

Jasper also uses his online fame to do charity work, such as raising donations and spreading awareness of the Yulin dog meat festival.

But the good work amounts to little if it's not accompanied by the perfect pose.

Hot under the collar

Despite their charm, few dogs are natural models. It takes a bit of work.

"I put a salami on the camera to get him to actually look at the camera," laughed Gossen.

Garcia said luckily Jasper is very treat motivated — just a quick look at the camera means a treat, so why not look a little longer?

For Reddy, she said the most important thing to cultivate a strong Instagram following is to unleash a steady stream of quality photos. The people want more Bouncer — they'll get more Bouncer.

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Quinn Nelson doesn't feel comfortable changing in either of the school's facilities, which are currently set up for those who identify strictly as male or female. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

School open to changes

INCLUSIVITY

University of Calgary plans gender neutral change rooms

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Motivation to hit the gym can be hard enough, and we often find excuses not to go. For some it's time, for others it can be exhaustion from the day to day — but for the University of Calgary's queer population it's the change facilities.

As part of their school fees, students are paying for the use of fitness facilities at the Kinesiology complex. But some gender non-binary and trans folk aren't taking advantage because there aren't gender inclusive spaces to safely shower, change and feel welcomed into the pool, weight room, track or classes on offer.

"I can't access the facilities because there are only change rooms, which also act as entrances to the pool, for men and women, which I am neither," said student Quinn Nelson. "Both are the wrong change room for me, and using either is very uncomfortable and dangerous."

Nelson said change facilities are just one issue that the school needs to tackle, and they need to consider all accessibility with new changes.

According to the university, plans to convert or renovate change facilities are underway and awaiting quality money funds from the Students' Union. In the meantime, the U of C will turn an existing office across the hall into an inclusive change room.

But according to Keesa Hutchinson, an architect with the U of C, the long-term solution won't begin construction until summer 2017, funding dependent.

"Preliminary planning, including discussions with the Office of Diversity, students, and other user groups began early spring 2016," wrote Hutchinson. "We are anticipating moving forward with schematic design early Fall 2016."

Zac Wierzbicki, with Queers on Campus, has been included in the consultation process. He said what they're hoping for, above and beyond change facilities, are classes geared towards the community.

"We're looking at it from a bigger picture too, even beyond change rooms that the gym can be quite an intimidating space for people," Wierzbicki said. "One of our goals is to start up an informal workout group where people can go together."

In 2014, the school's administration approved a motion to build a gender inclusive washroom in MacEwan Hall. Since, they've also added a gender inclusive washroom in the Education Tower and are soon adding gender inclusive facilities in the Foothills Campus this fall.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Province eyes standardized testing pilot

The Alberta Government is keeping a keen eye on Ontario as its post-secondary body embarks on a unique pilot project.

In the fall, first-year students and graduates across over 10 institutions in Ontario will be tested in math, problem solving and writing to determine whether post-secondary institutions tangibly boost those skills.

"At this point we're not conducting similar testing, like they are in Ontario," said communications director with advanced education John Muir. "But it is a pilot project, so with any type of research we're always interested in finding out the results."

Muir said it's a neat idea, and the government will be watching with interest.

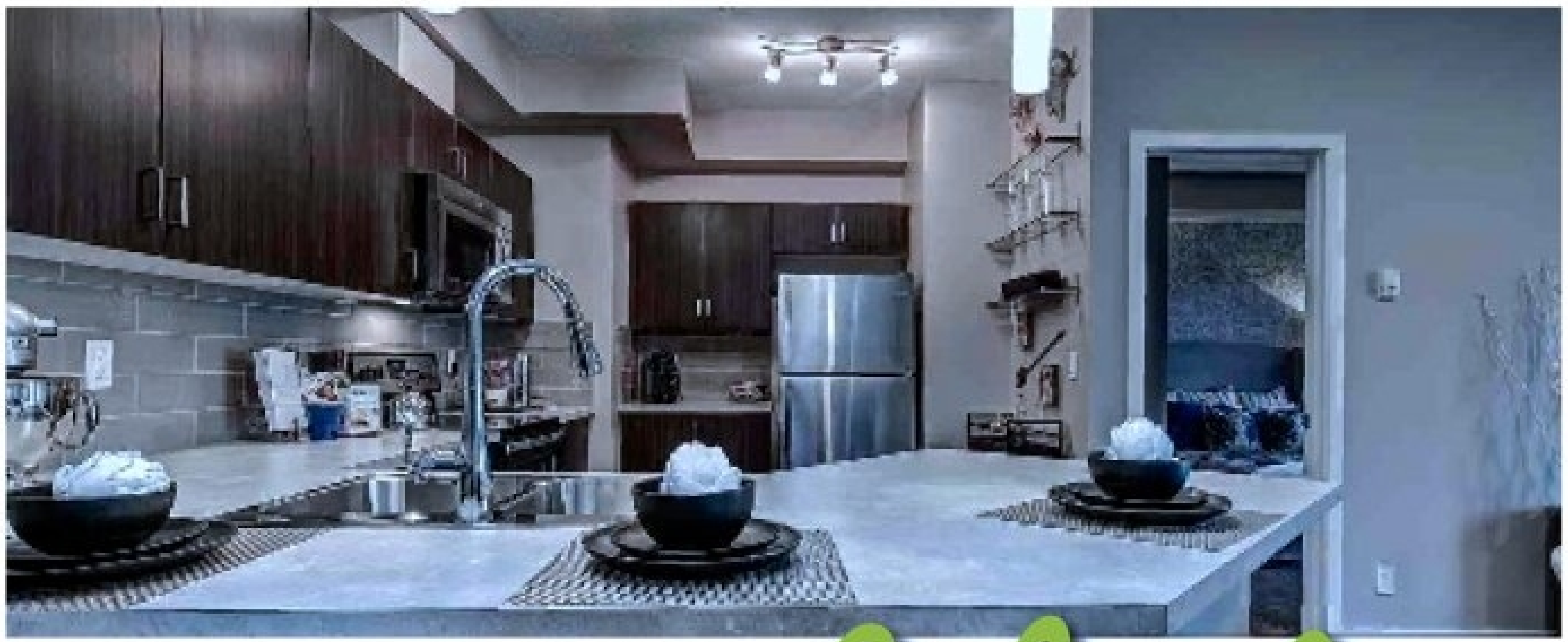
The tests, ordered by Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO), will be hosted online, won't affect final grades and give students an idea of how they did. Schools participating will be given access to the marks to see where they can improve, and learners will also have a chance to boast their fine-tune skills on job applications if they so choose.

"It's almost a revolution in what we think higher education is about; a shift from drilling information to the application of skills," said Harvey Weingarten, executive director of the HEQCO, the province's advisory body on post-secondary learning.

In Ontario, there have been talks of post-secondary funding taking on a model that also considers student performance — something this pilot could indicate. But for HEQCO, right now the focus is on quality improvement.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

> **It's a shift from drilling information to the application of skills.**
> Harvey Weingarten



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STREETSIDE DEVELOPMENTS QUALICO 65

Notley approval still declining

POLITICS

19 per cent of voters still unsure of Opposition leader Brian Jean

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

When Albertans hear the term NDP, they think of leader Rachel Notley.

That could present a problem for the party as the leader's approval continues to slide.

A ThinkHQ / Metro exclusive poll shows Notley's approval rating is approaching half of the 60 per cent approval she enjoyed after the election in 2015. It currently sits at 37 per cent.

Her disapproval rating was even higher, at 54 per cent.

But Duane Bratt, chair of Mount Royal University's Department of Policy Studies, said it's not unusual for the leader of any party to have a disapproval rating over 50 per cent.

"If I was Notley, I'd still be buoyed by the numbers that she's got, particularly in Edmonton. She's at over 50 per cent in Edmonton, which shows the strength of the party."

He said opposition leader Brian Jean's numbers come with a caveat

"Jean's approval rating is much better than the premier, but there's a much larger uncertainty - 19 per cent unsure," said Bratt. "You don't get that around a premier. But that's a large figure for the leader of the opposition. That's almost a fifth of the population."

He said the premier is the most public figure and people's opinion of any premier tends to be polarized, without that uncertainty in the middle.

What Bratt would really like to see is how Notley might stack up against Jason Kenney, who is running to lead the PC party with the stated goal of uniting right-leaning Alberta parties.

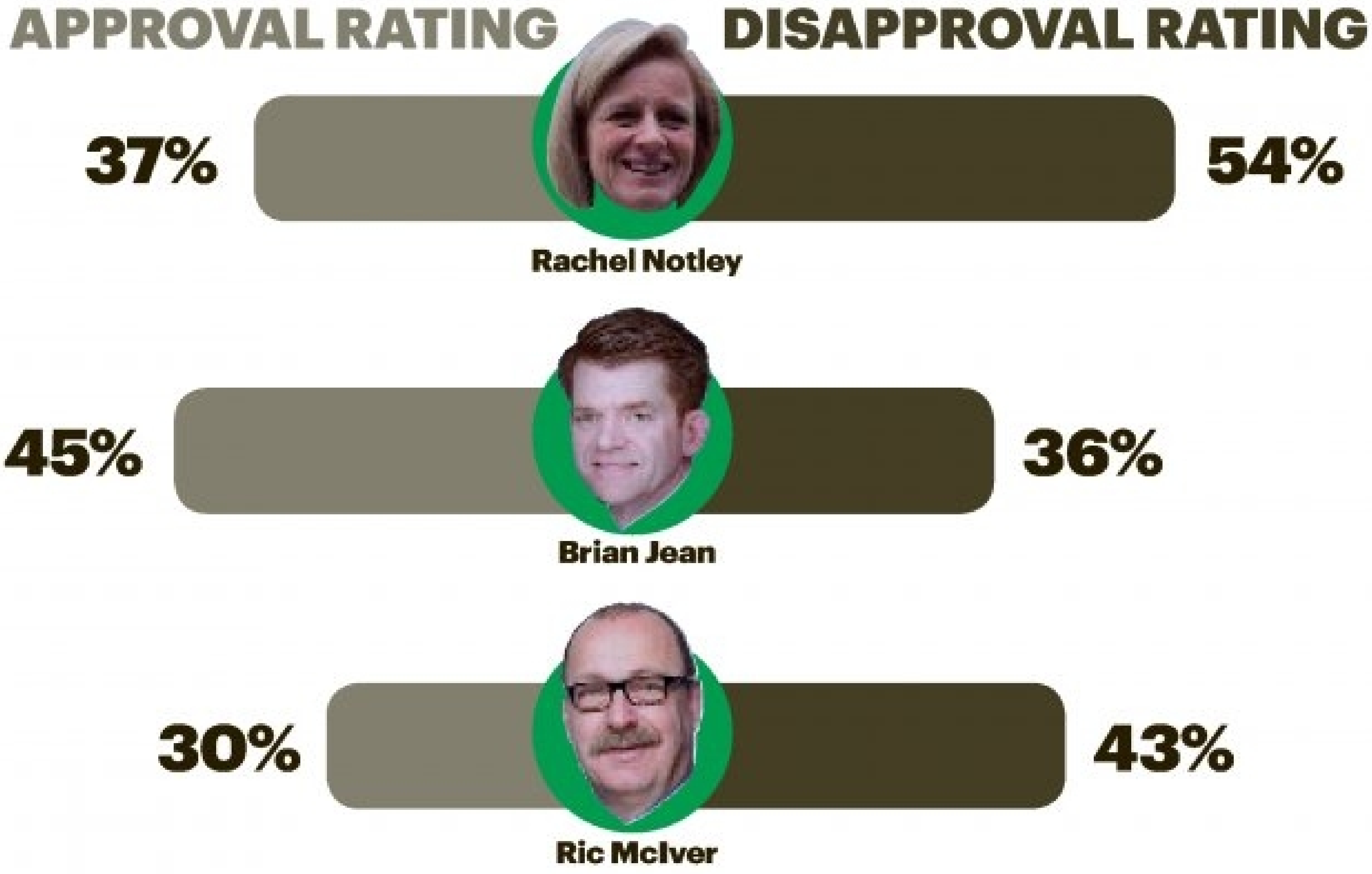
The poll of 1221 participants utilizes a representative but non-random sample, therefore margin of error is not applicable.

However, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at a 95 per cent confidence interval.

To join the Voice of Alberta Panel, visit voiceofalberta.com.

Alberta's leaders
DISLIKE-O-METER

An exclusive ThinkHQ / Metro poll shows that Premier Rachel Notley has a sliding approval rating, while Wildrose opposition leader Brian Jean is in a slightly better position, and interim PC leader Ric McIver trails them both.



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Winning a dream home just got a little cheaper

CANCER RESEARCH

Cash And Cars Lottery lowers ticket prices

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Mary Beth Eckersley knows that when she buys tickets from the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Cash and Cars Lottery this year, the money will be well spent.

The two-time cancer survivor has seen first hand the quality of care patients receive at Alberta's cancer care centres, such as the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary.

"I like the fact that we're raising money here for people here," she said.

The lottery is adapting to the economic times. Daryl Silzer, associate vice president of fund development at the Alberta Cancer Foundation, said they've lowered the price per ticket to $75 this year.

He said that change in price is a win-win-win because more people can now get in the game, the prizes remain as good as ever this year, and the amount of money they stand to raise will not change either.

The lottery has raised $27 million to date — it goes toward Alberta Research into cancer, as well as the work done by the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

"It's amazing how much time and effort they put in for people like me," said Eckersley. "There's financial support, there's emotional support."

The grand prize this year is a furnished dream home in West Grove Estates and a 2016 Toyota Rav 4 Hybrid.

Tickets can be purchased at cashandcarslottery.ca

Cancer survivor Mary Beth Eckersley sits at the table in this year's grand prize dream home for the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Cash and Cars Lottery. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

BANFF

Another wolf killed

Parks Canada says staff have killed another wolf that was seeking to feed at campgrounds in Banff National Park, as wardens charge a growing number of campers for leaving out food and garbage.

Christina Tricomi, a parks spokesperson, said the wolf was displaying bold behaviour toward people and could not be scared away from returning to the Two Jack Main and Lakeside campgrounds. The wolf was destroyed on Wednesday night.

"This was a very difficult decision for Parks Canada staff, who work so hard to protect these animals. But in the end, it was a necessary action to ensure visitor safety," Tricomi wrote in an email Thursday.

In June, Parks Canada staff killed a female wolf that it said aggressively looked for food at the Tunnel Mountain campground near Banff.

Park wardens have charged people at 20 campsites over the past month for keeping unsatisfactory campsites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Serial entrepreneurs Ron Bettin and Bill Scott founded ResourceYYC to give back to a city that's been so good to them.
AARON CHATHA/METRO

Startup's helps for oil workers

RESOURCEYYC

Company has software, networking for energy sector

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Nestled in a humble nook of 10 Avenue SE in Calgary's downtown core is a fracking dream come true for the city's out-of-work oil, gas and energy folks.

ResourceYYC is an incubator created by entrepreneurs Ron Bettin and Bill Scott, which caters directly to those who want to get back into the oil sector with their own business, but lack some vital resources to make it happen.

One of which is expensive software.

"We have people right now who don't have access to the tools that they need," said Scott. "It could be upwards of $30,000, $40,000 or $100,000 per year to access the software they need."

Not only that, but those starting on the ground level don't always have access to be peer group they need — geologists may not have engineers to talk to, engineers may lack a good land guy.

"By bringing people together in this hub, we're able to get the access to the tools that they need and to the peer group," Scott explained. "We're hoping that will start innovation, and we'll see where it goes."

Once a potential oil or energy upstart has applied to ResourceYYC, discussed their needs and costs, they'll be given desk space or an office and, most importantly, a huge amount of software.

It's made possible through another venture, Final Frontiers Systems Corp., an IT services group that's partnered with Microsoft. They've managed to create a cloud network secure enough that vendors have been willing to put their software in and provide it for free to people who are in the space and not currently employed.

Once their companies grow and move forward, they'll be put in touch with the software companies to negotiate new rates from there.

Scott said they love the space, the people in it and are excited to give back to a city experiencing a downturn.

"Calgary's been so good to us," he said. "It's a city where you don't need a dossier, it doesn't matter where your parents went to school. If you have a good idea you can pick up the phone and call someone. The entrepreneurial spirit is so alive."

For more information, visit resourceyyc.org.

KIDNAPPING

Teen's motive unknown for abducting sister

Police have charged a 19-year-old Calgary man with child abduction after his eight-year-old sister was found in British Columbia.

Police say the siblings disappeared from the family's Calgary home early Wednesday.

Officers then learned that a suspect was driving west through B.C.

RCMP eventually took the brother and sister into custody at a traffic stop near Abbotsford. Police say the girl was unharmed.

Staff Sgt. Rob Davidson with the Calgary police domestic conflict unit says officers don't yet know of a motive.

"The lack of motivation, the lack of planning, the lack of history, lack of contact with the family — all of those things started to really make us believe that this person was not able to safely care for an 8-year-old," Davidson said.

He added that the brother's behaviour was "uncharacteristic" and both siblings were travelling with their passports.

"That really increased our anxiety around locating her as quickly as possible," Davidson said. "The family was quite distraught in trying to determine what the risk might be for her."

Officers have not had a chance to interview the accused, he said, adding the man's name is not being released in order to protect the identity of the victim.

Davidson said the girl has been reunited with her father, thanks to a flight provided by the Missing Children Society of Canada. Her brother is to be returned to Alberta by police later this week.

He said officers were preparing to issue an Amber Alert for the girl when she was located — and it was nice to have a happy ending.

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Operator charged in day home death

CEIRA LYNN MCGRATH

Woman, 57, accused of negligence in infant fatality

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The father of a little girl who died after going into medical distress in a southwest Calgary day home last November said now that charges have been laid, his family can begin to look toward the future.

The owner and operator of the unlicensed day home Ryan McGrath's twin toddlers were attending has been charged in connection with the death of his daughter, Ceira Lynn.

"It's been hard to even grieve. We still don't even know how our daughter died, but I think we can start looking forward to closure now," McGrath told Metro.

Staff Sgt. Doug Andrus said around 1:30 p.m., on Nov. 12, 2015, police were called to a residence in the 0-100 block of Silverado Ridge SW, for a report of an infant not breathing. The child was transported to hospital where she was pronounced dead.

> It's been hard to even grieve... but I think we can start looking forward to closure now.
>
> Ryan McGrath

"The CPS Homicide Unit launched an investigation into the death and have determined the death was criminal in nature," said Andrus.

Elmarie Simons, 57, of Calgary, is charged with one count of criminal negligence causing death.

It's believed the victim was in the care and home of Simons at the time of the incident.

"We believe the infant went into medical distress after being left in a car seat for a prolonged period of time," he said.

CPS consulted with a biomechanics expert in this case who looked into the relationship between the car seat and Ceira's medical distress.

McGrath said he and his wife, Tanya Gladwell, learned of the charges Wednesday.

"When we got the news there were such mixed emotions," he said.

"I don't know if happy is the right word, but relief."

McGrath said they've been told by investigators to prepare for some hard-to-hear details.

"But, we've always taken the time to think about Colby," he said. "He is happy and healthy — he's keeping us going."

Andrus said Simons was still operating her day home up until she was arrested Wednesday. She appeared in court Thursday and has since been released with conditions.

Since Ceira's death, her parents have been advocating for changes to day home legislation in Alberta.

McGrath said he certainly would still like to see those changes, "even if it's just some more checks and balances."

A tree will be planted in Ceira Lynn's honour this fall, and McGrath plans on having a celebration for Ceira around the one-year anniversary of her death.

Ceira Lynn McGrath died in November 2015 after she was found not breathing and went into medical distress at her unlicensed day home in Silverado. FACEBOOK

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On the Fringe shows life … on the Fringe

SCENE YYC

Behind-the-scenes look at Canada's festival circuit

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Natalie Watson and Cory Thibert, producer and director of On the Fringe. COURTESY RANDI STRICKLAND

Nancy Kenny's biggest catch while filming her Canadian Fringe Festival documentary was scoring an interview with Mump and Smoot — a famous clown duo from the '90s who rarely perform together anymore.

But in-between the Toronto and Winnipeg Fringe festivals, Kenny and her team had the rare chance to talk to them together.

The interview went great.

So great, that they celebrated with wine back at their cottage.

Unfortunately, with wine, mistakes are made.

"We accidentally lost the footage," Kenny recalled. "So, we had to go back. Fortunately they were kind enough to let us wake them up after a two-week workshop intensive, early the next day, to (re)do the interviews so we wouldn't be late arriving in Winnipeg."

The documentary, shot around the country in 2014, will be premiering this Saturday in Calgary as part of this year's Calgary Fringe Festival.

Kenny spent 2014 touring her own one-woman Fringe show on the circuit, which included a few performances in Calgary.

"Calgary is a welcome rest between the craziness that is Winnipeg and Edmonton — which are two huge festivals," she said, adding the festival has always grown naturally in size, with its audience. "I honestly never played to an empty house in Calgary."

She said the appeal of Fringe shows is not knowing what you'll expect. Most of the country's festivals are run by a lottery system — so anyone can potentially get their show in the festival.

"You could get veteran performers who've been doing this for years or you could get someone fresh out of theatre school who's never done it before," she laughed. "Either of those could be the most brilliant or the worst thing you've ever seen. I've had both experiences."

Her documentary, On the Fringe, explores what happens behind the scenes during those shows. It screens on Aug. 6, at 12:30 p.m. Alexandra Centre Society, with a suggested entry donation of $10. The documentary's director, Cory Thibert, will also be in attendance.

POLICE

ASIRT clears officer in shooting case

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) has completed the investigation into a 2014 Calgary police-officer-involved shooting and has found no reason to believe the officer committed a crime.

According to a news release from ASIRT, the incident in question took place Oct. 31, 2014 on a second floor suite at 433 Macleod Trail SE, after police received a call regarding a man in the hallway, who reportedly had a gun and had threatened another man in the building.

After CPS responded to the call and knocked on the door of the suite, ASIRT said a 30-year-old man exited the suite carrying what appeared to be a handgun. When one of the officers yelled "gun," the man angled the barrel of the gun towards the officers.

According to ASIRT, the officer closest to the suite then fired his gun twice, hitting the man once in the chest.

After CPS sent a robot into the room equipped with a camera and saw the man motionless on the ground, they entered the suite where it was determined the man was dead.

An autopsy revealed the shot to the torso was the cause of death and also revealed he was under the influence of alcohol.

ASIRT executive director, Susan D. Hughson, Q.C., reviewed the completed ASIRT investigation in its entirety, and confirmed there are no reasonable grounds to believe the officer committed any offence.

Hughson found that when the man pointed what appeared to be a handgun, but turned out to be a pellet gun, at police, the officer involved was faced with what appeared to be an immediate lethal threat and had reasonable grounds to believe that the use of lethal force was required.

METRO

LIVES LIVED

Mel Hurtig, author, publisher dies at 84

Mel Hurtig, the ardent nationalist behind The Canadian Encyclopedia, died of pneumonia Wednesday in a Vancouver hospital.

He was 84.

His death was confirmed by Barbara Hurtig, the oldest of his four daughters, who said he was surrounded by his family at the end.

"He was a good dad and a great Canadian," she said, adding he was a brave man who wasn't afraid to face people who disagreed with him. "He was never afraid to stand up to opponents and to try and engage people. And I admired him for that."

She said his political pluck lasted to the end, noting that when her youngest sister read him a headline on Wednesday about the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, he remarked: "Bravo, it's about time."

Hurtig was perhaps best known as publisher of the encyclopedia and co-founder of the Council of Canadians, a group dedicated to preserving the country's sovereignty.

"Let's never, never, give in to those who are selling out Canada," Hurtig urged in his 2002 book The Vanishing Country.

"We mourn our friend and mentor," Maude Barlow, national chairwoman of the council, posted to Twitter on Wednesday night.

"He was a legend in Canadian publishing and a pioneer of progressive causes," said Ontario poet Paul Vermeersch. "A true Canadian hero."

According to his Facebook page, he was an Officer of the Order of Canada, had honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from six Canadian universities and was the recipient of the Lester B. Pearson "Man of the Year Peace Award."

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY – Taste the Trucks
The annual Taste the Trucks event pulls back into Haultain Park for the weekend. More than 20 local food trucks will be in attendance for the YYCFoodTrucks event. And it's not just food trucks – BassBuss will offer live music and Village Brewery will provide beer.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more info visit yycfoodtrucks.com.

SATURDAY – Blue Rodeo
One of Canada's most iconic bands returns to the Calgary area.

Blue Rodeo will perform on the Canadian Badlands Passion Play stage in Drumheller.

Formed in 1984, they're released 14 full length studio albums and have been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

For more information visit canadianpassionplay.com.

SATURDAY – Floating Lanterns
The annual Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony remembers the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and all the people impacted. The night will be opened by Japanese drumming group Midnight Taiko Kai, followed by peace stories, First Nations speakers. The floating lanterns will be launched into the Olympic Plaza pond after 9 p.m.

SUNDAY – One Big Jam
One Big Jam supports the Autism Asperger's Friendship Society of Calgary with family-friendly music like the Cowtown Opera and the Backyard Betties. As well, there will be carnival rides, face painters, a dunk tank and even a visual arts display.

For more information, visit aafscalgary.com.

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Leonardo Gonzalez hopes to promote Latin culture on the Expo Latino stage. CONTRIBUTED

Showcasing Latin culture

EXPO LATINO

Professional dancer to bring moves, students to the stage

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Owner of Edmonton's Cuban Movements school and professional dancer, Leonardo Gonzalez has been dancing since that age of eight. He'll bring his skills, his youth dancers and his professional company to the stage at this weekend's Expo Latino.

For a full schedule, visit expolatino.com

Why is dance your passion?
"Since I was a kid – my mom said I would jump in the crib every time I listened to music. I had a very good rhythm. As a kid, I thought, I want to do this.

"When I was seven, I was dancing at a party and a professional dance teacher, she saw me and said, 'oh wow, this kid has some skill.' She asked my mom if I could be part of her professional dance group. I think, three months later I was performing on the stage in front of 2,000 people.

"People clapped after my performance and that was the most amazing feeling in the world."

And now you're up in Edmonton running your own dance studio.
"Yes. I've been running Cuban Movement Dance School for four years.

"Since I went to a professional dancing school in Cuba, we teach almost everything. You have to be training in ballet, contemporary, popular dance, flamenco – we'll go through every country and you have to learn every type. That way, when you have to build a show, you're ready and prepared."

Are you ever too old to start dancing?
"Never too old! Once you feel you have the energy and the love, you're ready to learn!"

Why is Expo Latino such an important event for the community?
"It's a great event. Its promoting Latin culture, and they can show that to the whole community. People can see a reflection of their own country on the stage. Showing people where they come from, what they do and how they do it – and why they do it. It's very good and very challenging to put that together, get these people on stage and create a big family."

Frontier, front lines

ALASKA

Canadian, U.S. soldiers wrap up massive war game in Alaska

A C-130J from the 41st Airlift Squadron flies past Denali, North America's tallest mountain. The squadron provided combat airlift as part of its pre-deployment training ahead of Arctic Anvil, the largest military exercise in the last 15 years. SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLEE CLARK/U.S. AIR FORCE VIA AP

Soldiers from U.S. and Canada have spent much of the last few weeks engaging in war games in expansive interior Alaska, with Iowa National Guard personnel playing the role of the enemy.

Arctic Anvil, which ended this week for about 5,000 soldiers and support personnel, was the largest training held in Alaska in the last 15 or so years, said Brig. Gen. Martin Frank, a member of the Canadian Army and the deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Alaska. He is the first foreign officer to serve on the U.S. Army Alaska staff.

Among those training were 140 soldiers from the Third Canadian Division, a light armoured vehicle company, Frank said.

"We've also got about 800 folks from the Iowa National Guard that are participating in the exercise who are playing the role of opposing forces," he said.

Also on hand were observers from partner nations Japan and Singapore.

The exercise tested the soldiers against two kinds of opponents, insurgents similar to what the forces faced in Iraq and Afghanistan and more traditional foes.

Frank said the troops have to maintain their skills with fighting insurgent forces.

"But we also have to be capable of defeating a near-peer enemy who might be equipped with tanks, with unmanned aerial vehicles, with aircraft, with all the things that we have so that we are ready to fight and ready to win regardless of what kind of opposing force or kind of adversary we come against," Frank said.

The exercise was intended to prepare the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, near Fairbanks, for an upcoming rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Lewis, Calif. The training also included soldiers from the 52nd Aviation Regiment.

Frank called the exercise a success: "I've seen an exponential increase in the capability and the readiness of the 1st Stryker Brigade, and in large part this is due to the command climate, the perspective of the commanders on the ground, and the soldiers on the ground, wanting to learn, wanting to become better," he said.

The training scenario, equipment and technical expertise were provided by the 196th Infantry Brigade's Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability, and this was the first time they have provided the training outside its home base in Hawaii.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldier Sixto Carrasquiollo with an AT-4 anti-armour weapon during the war games simulation in Alaska. JUSTIN CONNAHER/U.S. AIR FORCE VIA AP

> **We have to be capable of defeating a near-peer enemy.**
>
> Brig. Gen. Martin Frank

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Don't let convicted cabbies drive: Advocate

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax Regional Police victim services caseworker said Thursday conditions placed on taxi drivers accused of sexual assault "cannot be monitored."

Angela Jeffrey-Haynes made the statement in a letter written to Halifax regional council's Appeals Standing Committee — the one tasked with ruling on appeals from taxi drivers who have lost their licences due to allegations of sexual assault.

The letter comes after a string of reported sexual assaults by taxi drivers in Halifax.

Jeffrey-Haynes wrote that while police can't stop an accused driver from driving, they commonly place conditions that prohibit them from having female passengers in their vehicles, or having passengers in the front seat.

After the Appeals Standing Committee reinstates a driver's licence, it usually applies similar conditions.

"Unfortunately, the limited conditions that police are allowed to place on taxi drivers cannot be monitored," she wrote, adding that Halifax Regional Municipality's taxi compliance team is in the same boat, and it's especially difficult to regularly check whether drivers are adhering to conditions at night.

"Therefore there is no way to properly hold these offenders accountable and to ensure public safety."

Jeffrey-Haynes wrote her letter to educate committee members on their role after attending two appeal hearings earlier this year.

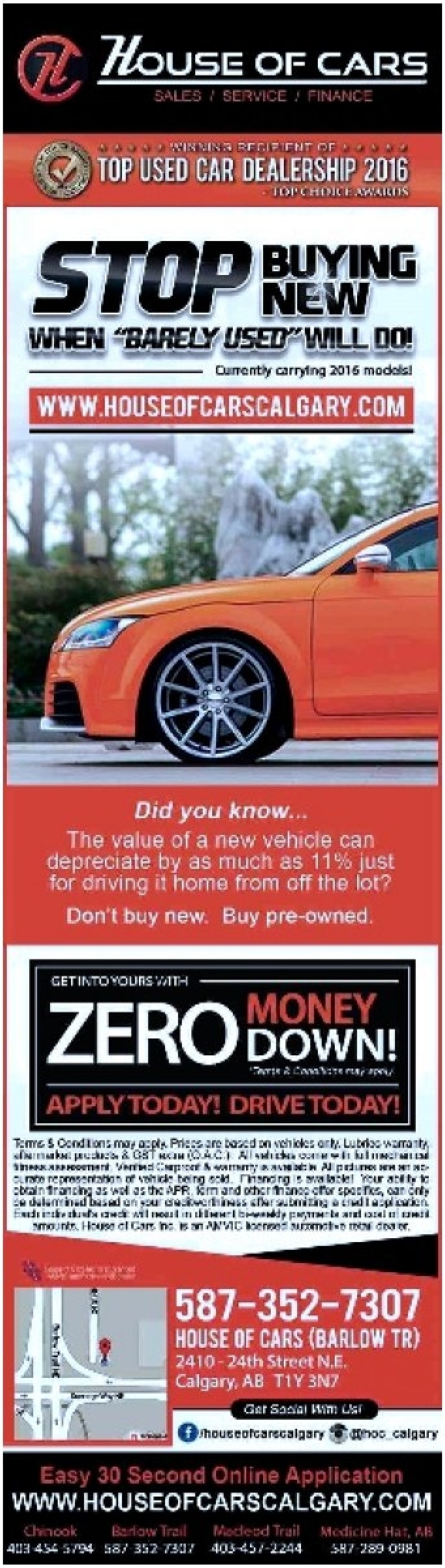
The committee has allowed multiple appeals in the last year for drivers currently moving through the justice system, and in one case, left the door open for a convicted driver to reapply to get his licence back this September.

Jeffrey-Haynes wrote that, given high rates of recidivism among sexual assault offenders, and the level of trust afforded to taxi drivers, reinstating their licences, even with conditions, leaves the public vulnerable.

"I can say overall that allowing taxi drivers who display such behaviour to continue working in this role creates a sense of fear for women in HRM," she wrote.

"It limits their freedom both psychologically and physically."

Convicted driver Ahror Mamadiev. JEFF HARPER/METRO



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Student from Canada arrested in café attack

BANGLADESH

Tahmid Hasib Khan held but not charged

A University of Toronto student who had not been heard from since last month's restaurant attack in Bangladesh was arrested Thursday on allegations he was involved in the deadly siege carried out by radical Islamists.

Tahmid Hasib Khan, 22, a permanent resident of Canada, was arrested in the Bangladesh capital and a court has allowed police to keep him in custody for eight days for questioning, said a Dhaka police spokesman.

The Bangladesh English-language newspaper The Daily Star reported that Khan and a 47-year-old British national were arrested under a part of the Bangladeshi criminal code that allows police to arrest and detain a person without a warrant and without laying charges with court approval.

British national Hasnat Karim, centre left, and **University of Toronto student Tahmid Hasib Khan**, centre right, are taken to a court in Dhaka on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five armed gunmen attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant on the night of July 1, killing 20 people and holding others inside hostage. Security forces stormed the restaurant on July 2, killing the gunmen and rescuing the remaining 13 hostages. Nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and one Indian died.

Khan, 22, was known to have been inside the restaurant, but Bangladeshi authorities and police denied having him in custody after the attack. His family and New York-based Human Rights Watch had appealed for news about them and said the authorities were holding the men.

Khan's family asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on July 11 to intervene in the case of the young man, who is a permanent resident of Canada. The family said they don't know why Khan was being held, but insisted he had done nothing wrong.

His brother, Talha Khan, who is a Canadian citizen, sent a letter through a lawyer to Trudeau's office, seeking Ottawa's help in the case.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion's office said at the time that government officials had been in contact with Bangladesh officials regarding the status of a Canadian permanent resident and were monitoring the situation closely. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

- Khan is an undergraduate student studying global health at the University of Toronto.
- He had travelled to Dhaka to visit family, with plans to go on to Nepal where he was to begin an internship last month.

'NATIONAL TREASURE'

World's media smitten with shirtless Trudeau

Come to Canada!

See the beaver, the bears … and the bare-chested Prime Minister.

Or as News.Mic put it, "Behold, the Shirtless Trudeau — one of Canada's most prized national treasures."

Time magazine and the BBC have now devoted space to how Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was photographed shirtless after emerging from a cave in Quebec's Gatineau Park.

The respected media outlets document the reactions of the Peterborough family of Jim and Arlene Lillie Godby and their children Alexander, 13, and Charlotte, 10, who recently stumbled upon the Trudeaus on Tuesday at Lusk Cave, near Ottawa.

The Godbys encountered Trudeau with his wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and their kids. The other Trudeaus were apparently shirted.

The BBC notes how the chance encounter at the marble cave drove Jim Godby to reflect on life.

"When you step out your front door, you never know what adventures await," Jim Godby wrote on Facebook.

Alexander Godby's selfie with Trudeau. COURTESY JIM GODBY

Time also records Torstar News Service's story, noting that Jim Godby had to make a quick decision when he saw Trudeau climbing out of the hole.

"It was like a 20-foot-wide round hole and Justin (Trudeau) emerged with his family in tow and said, 'This is the moment of truth; do we stop here or do we carry on?'" Godby told Torstar News Service.

"This anecdote contains hope for us all," exults digital magazine Slate. "The next time you see a cave, you should probably check to see if there is a hunky international statesman inside."

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Global rights groups to keep eye on inquiry

JUSTICE

Omission of police from probe mandate criticized

Commissioner Michele Audette speaks during the announcement of the inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women Wednesday in Gatineau, Que. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The number of missing or murdered indigenous women in Canada has not escaped the attention of members of the international human rights community, who will keep a close eye on a national inquiry they say is long overdue.

"I think the international community in general is looking to see Canada live up to the human rights principles and values that it espouses," said Meghan Rhoad, with Human Rights Watch in Washington, D.C.

The United Nations and other international human rights bodies and non-governmental organizations have all issued reports on the nearly 1,200 indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada.

Canadian families and advocates alike have used that degree of global scrutiny to amplify their calls for an inquiry — calls that until this year have gone unheeded.

The scrutiny included a stinging rebuke by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which released a report last year concluding the disproportionate amount of violence indigenous women face in Canada — including the high number of deaths and disappearances — constitutes "grave violations" of their human rights.

Perry Bellegarde, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said the impact goes beyond borders.

"It's a national tragedy, but it's an international shame," Bellegarde said Wednesday in Gatineau, Que., after the Liberal government unveiled the terms of reference for the inquiry and handed the reins over to its independent commissioners.

Dinah Shelton came to Canada to learn more about the issue in 2013 when she was rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an arm of the Organization of American States.

Its 2014 report added its voice to the call for a national inquiry.

"It took a lot of external pressure for something that should have been dealt with internally a long time ago," said Shelton, a professor emeritus of international law at George Washington University.

"Hopefully this will encourage others not to wait so long, when they have similar problems, to take this up."

There's another lesson the situation in Canada can teach other countries about the pervasiveness of violence against women, she added.

"It's not limited to poor countries. It's not limited to Islamic countries. It happens in countries that have overall good human rights records, and yet it still happens and it can still be very widespread."

The reports from international human rights groups have included recommendations on how police handle investigations involving missing or murdered indigenous females and also on how to deal with allegations of police misconduct.

The terms of reference for the inquiry give the commissioners broad powers to compel witnesses and summon evidence, including in provincial and territorial jurisdictions such as policing. They do not, however, mention police explicitly — an omission that has been a point of contention for family members and critics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Hopefully this will encourage others not to wait so long, when they have similar problems, to take this up.**
>
> Dinah Shelton

IN BRIEF

'Internet Black Widow' pleads not guilty to breach charges

An elderly woman who gained notoriety for killing and poisoning her intimate partners has pleaded not guilty to violating the conditions of a peace bond.

Melissa Shepard, known as the "Internet Black Widow," did not appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday, but her lawyer Mark Knox entered not guilty pleas on her behalf.

Knox says the 82-year-old woman's trial has been set for Feb. 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEBEC

Police investigate waiter over salmon served to allergic patron

Police in an eastern Quebec town are investigating a young restaurant employee for alleged criminal negligence over a plate of salmon tartare they say was served to a severely allergic customer who then was hospitalized for weeks.

Sherbrooke police say the man ordered beef tartare at a local restaurant last May and specified numerous times to a waiter that he was allergic to both seafood and salmon.

A short time later, police say a plate of salmon tartare was brought to the table and the patron took a bite, unaware of what he'd been served because the lighting had been dimmed.

Police said the customer, Simon-Pierre Canuel of Gatineau, Que., fell ill and was hospitalized for several weeks, even falling into a coma for two days and suffering cardiac arrest.

Sherbrooke police opened an investigation on July 28 after receiving a formal complaint from Canuel.

In addition to filing a criminal complaint, Canuel says he plans to launch a civil suit.

Martin Carrier of the Sherbrooke Police said Thursday that he realizes the case is unusual.

But Carrier said the definition of criminal negligence in the Criminal Code allows for an arrest if there was carelessness or lack of action to ensure the health and safety of others.

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Lawmakers bicker over Zika

HEALTH

U.S. official warns budget for virus is running out

As Zika escalates into a public health crisis and the number of mosquito-transmitted cases grows, Republicans and Democrats are pointing fingers over the failure by Congress to commit federal dollars to fight the virus.

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell warned lawmakers on Wednesday that her Zika budget is running out quickly. Without more money soon, she said, the "nation's ability to effectively respond to Zika will be impaired."

Yet lawmakers left Washington in mid-July for a seven-week recess without approving any of the $1.9 billion requested by President Barack Obama in February to develop a vaccine and control the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

Abortion politics played a central role in the impasse.

A community worker at the Wynwood Community Service Center in Miami hands out a can of insect repellent to a local resident on Thursday. ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republicans angered Democrats by adding a provision to a $1.1-billion take-it-or-leave-it measure that would have blocked Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico from receiving money.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, writing in USA Today on Thursday, did not mention that provision in blaming Democrats for blocking the legislation. Their obstruction, according to Ryan, R-Wis., is "a blatant ploy in an election year."

Also Thursday, 47 Senate Democrats called on Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to reconvene Congress and immediately address the Zika threat. They faulted GOP leaders for allowing "poison pill special-interest priorities" into the bill.

But McConnell has signalled he is in no rush to return.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aerial sprays target Miami mosquitoes

The head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says aerial spraying of the insecticide naled is killing many mosquitoes in a Miami neighbourhood where the insects apparently transmitted Zika to 15 people.

Dr. Tom Frieden says aerial spraying that began Thursday quickly killed adult mosquitoes that pesticides on the ground couldn't reach.

Puerto Rico's governor wouldn't authorize naled's use because of environmental concerns, despite widespread Zika infections there. Frieden says minuscule amounts sprayed at dawn and dusk have no effect on people.

Frieden says Miami's infections were limited to a 500-square-foot area in the Wynwood neighbourhood. Gov. Rick Scott says a 10-block corner of the district has been cleared of active infections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Security briefings OK with Obama

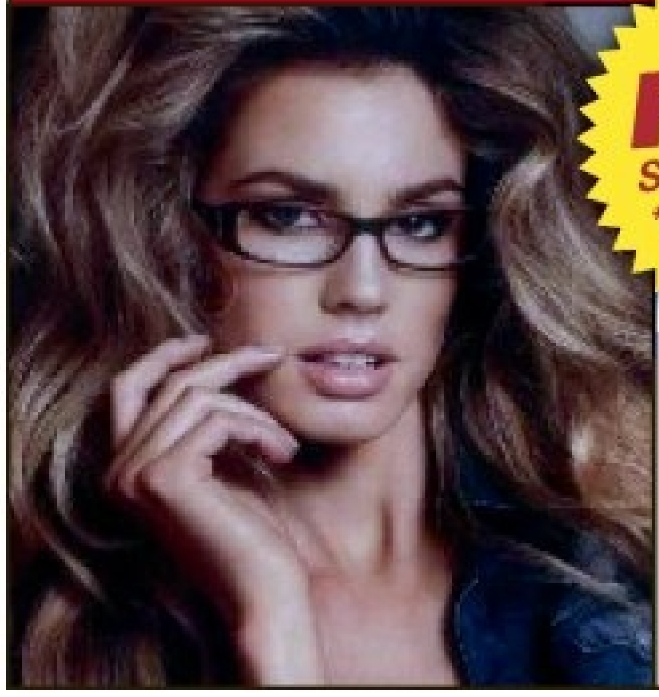
U.S. President Barack Obama says Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should receive classified security briefings as the presidential nominees because it's both tradition and required by the law.

He adds that he expects them to "start acting like a president" and keep them secret.

Obama had been asked during a Pentagon press conference whether he is concerned about Trump getting classified security briefings as the Republican presidential nominee.

Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama also said Trump's suggestion that the U.S. election process is rigged is "ridiculous." Trump said this week that elections are rigged after several states repealed laws that restricted the types of voter IDs that would be widely accepted at polling stations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Left: Former police officer Stephen Rankin, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of William Chapman. **Right:** Chapman's mother, Sallie Chapman, and her daughter, Timesha Slaughter. THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, POOL

Officer found guilty

VOLUNTART MANSLAUGHTER

Jury asks for 2 1/2 years for killing unarmed black man

A jury recommended 2 1/2 years in prison for a white former police officer convicted of voluntary manslaughter on Thursday in the shooting death of an unarmed black man who had been accused of shoplifting.

The ex-officer, Stephen Rankin, shot 18-year-old William Chapman in the face and chest outside a Walmart store last year after a security guard called police to go after the young man.

No video recorded the actual killing, and testimony conflicted on the details of what happened, but most witnesses said Chapman had his hands up, and prosecutor Stephanie Morales said the officer could have used non-deadly force.

The officer "brought a gun into what is at worst a fist fight," Morales told the jury, which deliberated for nearly two days before returning its verdict.

> **(The officer) brought a gun into what is at worst a fist fight.**
> Stephanie Morales

Rankin, 36, faced one to 10 years on the manslaughter conviction. Morales asked jurors to give him the maximum, while defence attorney James Broccoletti argued that no amount of jail time would bring Chapman back to life.

A judge will formally sentence Rankin on Oct. 12. The judge doesn't have to follow the jury's recommendation, but can't increase the penalty.

Rankin, who was fired from the Portsmouth police force after being indicted, had already killed another unarmed suspect, four years earlier, and many in the mostly black city of 100,000 saw his trial as a chance for accountability as police shootings continue around the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORGANIZED CRIME

Feds indict 46 in East Coast mob sweep

Declaring that the Mafia is not just the stuff of movie scripts, federal prosecutors charged nearly four dozen people Thursday with being part of an East Coast crime syndicate, including an old-school mobster in New York and a reputed mob chieftain in Philadelphia who has been pursued by the government for decades.

The indictment, unsealed in New York City, accuses the defendants of a litany of classic mafia crimes, including extortion, loansharking, casino-style gambling, sports gambling, credit card fraud and health care fraud. It said the syndicate operated in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida and New Jersey.

Among those charged was Joseph "Skinny Joey" Merlino, the flamboyant alleged head of the Philadelphia mob who has repeatedly beat murder charges in past cases, but served nearly 12 years in prison for racketeering.

Also named in the indictment was Pasquale "Patsy" Parrello, identified as a longtime member of the Genovese organized crime family in New York City.

Merlino's longtime lawyer, Ed Jacobs, declined to comment on the allegations, saying he hadn't yet studied the indictment.

Prosecutors said 39 of those charged were arrested on Thursday. Alleged members of four New York crime families were among the defendants. During the arrests, agents seized three handguns, a shotgun, gambling paraphernalia and more than $30,000 in cash.

Diego Rodriguez, head of the FBI's New York office, said the indictment "reads like an old-school Mafia novel."

One count accuses Parrello, 72, of ordering a beatdown in 2011 of a panhandler he believed was harassing female customers outside his Bronx restaurant.

"Break his ... knees," he said, according to prosecutors. The panhandler was "assaulted with glass jars, sharp objects and steel-tipped boots, causing bodily harm," the court papers said.

Afterward one of his cohorts was recorded saying, "Remember the old days in the neighbourhood when we used to play baseball? ... A ballgame like that was done," the papers said.

Merlino, 54, who has become a restaurateur in Boca Raton, Florida, following his release from prison, was implicated in a health-care fraud scheme with Parrello and others. Investigators said the conspirators got corrupt doctors to bill insurers for unnecessary and excessive prescriptions for expensive compound creams in exchange for kickbacks.

In Massachusetts, five alleged associates of the New York-based Genovese crime family were arrested on extortion-related charges as part of the sweep. Four men were arrested in New Jersey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> Reads like an old-school Mafia novel. **Diego Rodriguez, head of the FBI's New York office, on the indictment**

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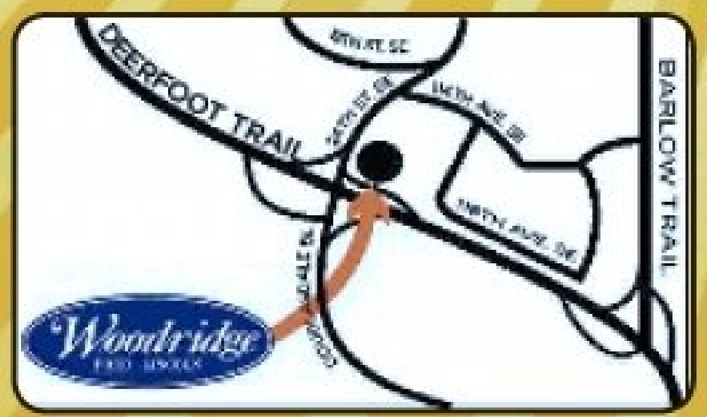

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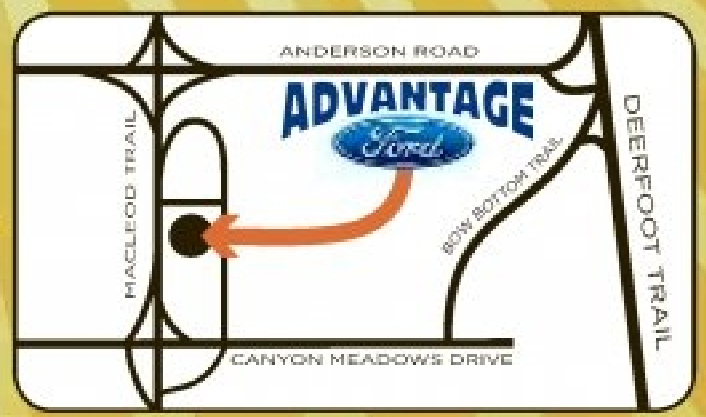

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London attack not terrorism

EUROPE

Police say suspect had mental health issues

A Somali-Norwegian teenager went on a knife rampage through London's Russell Square, a hub for students and tourists, fatally stabbing an American woman from Florida and wounding five other people.

Police said Thursday that it wasn't terrorism — but in a city on edge after a summer of attacks elsewhere in Europe, both authorities and London residents initially responded as if it were. Police flooded the streets with extra officers and mobilized counterterror detectives before saying the shocking burst of violence appeared to have been "triggered by mental-health issues."

Police officers used a stun gun to subdue the 19-year-old suspect at the scene of the stabbings late Wednesday, among busy streets lined with hotels close to the British Museum.

"Terror in London" ran the headline in the Mail Online, one of several media outlets to speculate that the attack was an act of terrorism. Police initially said terrorism was "one line of inquiry being explored."

But hours later Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said "we have found no evidence of radicalization or anything that would suggest the man in our custody was in any way motivated by terrorism."

He said detectives from the force's murder and terrorism squads had interviewed the suspect, his family and witnesses and searched properties.

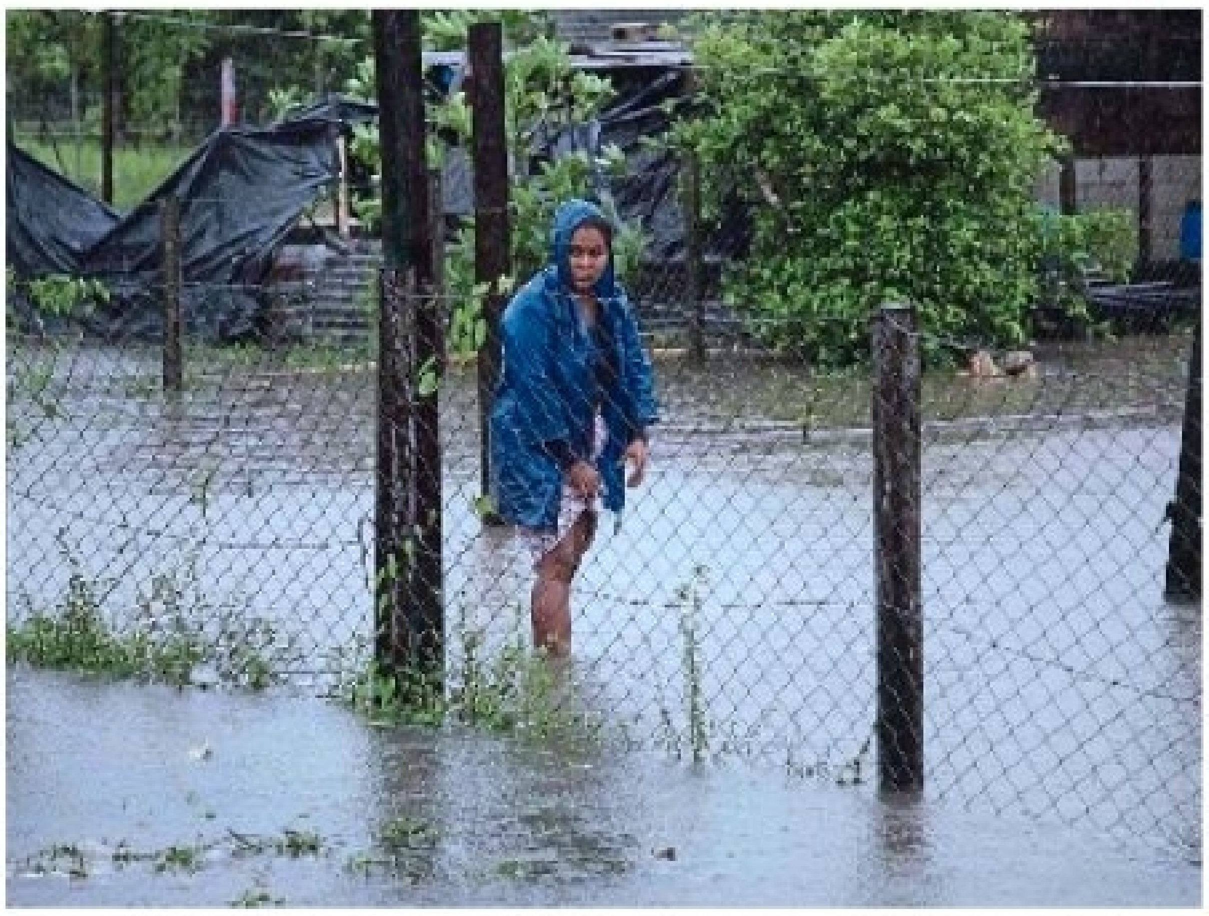
"We believe this was a spontaneous attack and the victims were selected at random," Rowley said.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said "there is no evidence at all that this man was motivated by Daesh" — another name for ISIS — or similar organizations.

Rowley said the suspect, whose name hasn't been released, is a Norwegian of Somali ancestry — though police don't consider that "relevant to the motivation for his actions."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers stand guard by flowers left at the scene of a knife attack in London on Wednesday. JACK TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES



HURRICANE EARL DOWNGRADED TO TROPICAL STORM AFTER DRENCHING BELIZE A woman wades through flood waters outside her home in Dolores, in the northern Guatemalan border state Peten, Thursday. Hurricane Earl deteriorated into a weak tropical storm Thursday as it passed over northern Guatemala en route to southern Mexico. Overnight, Earl slammed into the coast of the Caribbean nation of Belize with winds of 130 km/h, leaving the country battered, with some flooding reported.

LUIS SOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ukrainian hackers leak personal data of journos

Ukrainian nationalist website Myrotvorets has published what it says is an email archive with copies of IDs and personal data of Ukrainian and international journalists, raising new concerns about their safety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 killed, 30 injured in Venezuela prison explosion

An explosion on a Venezuela prison yard has killed five inmates and left 30 are wounded.

The public prosecutor's office says it appears that somebody threw two explosive devices Wednesday night at the Alayon detention centre in the town of Maracay, two hours west of Caracas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NIGERIA

Boko Haram leader rejects successor appointed by Daesh

Abubakar Shekau said Thursday he is still the leader of Boko Haram, rejecting a successor announced hours earlier by Daesh and exposing the biggest rift yet among Nigeria's deadly Islamic insurgents.

Shekau's declaration could pave the way for a break from Daesh, also known as ISIS or ISIL, and Boko Haram's possible return to the influence of al-Qaida. It also could cause insurgent rivals to turn their guns on each other.

Daesh on Wednesday announced that Abu Musab al-Barnawi is the new leader of its West Africa Province.

But an audio speech purporting to be from Shekau criticized al-Barnawi and said Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi did not respond to several letters from Shekau explaining that al-Barnawi is "an infidel" preaching "false creeds."

Shekau called Wednesday's announcement "a coup."

"Today, I woke up to see one who is an infidel whom they want me to follow. No, I won't ... We cannot subject ourselves to people who are in ignorance of all holy books and teachings," Shekau said in the speech, delivered in Arabic and Hausa and posted on social media.

He also highlighted ideological differences with al-Barnawi, who promised in an interview published Wednesday in Daesh newspaper al-Nabaa to end attacks on mosques and markets frequented by Muslims.

Such attacks have been a hallmark of Boko Haram under Shekau, who has led the group since its resurgence as a much more deadly and brutal force in 2009. Under his leadership, the seven-year insurgency spread to neighbouring countries, killed more than 20,000 people and drove more than 2.2 million from their homes.

In March 2015, Shekau pledged allegiance to al-Baghdadi and gave Daesh its first franchise in sub-Saharan Africa.

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Abubakar Shekau. SCREENSHOT

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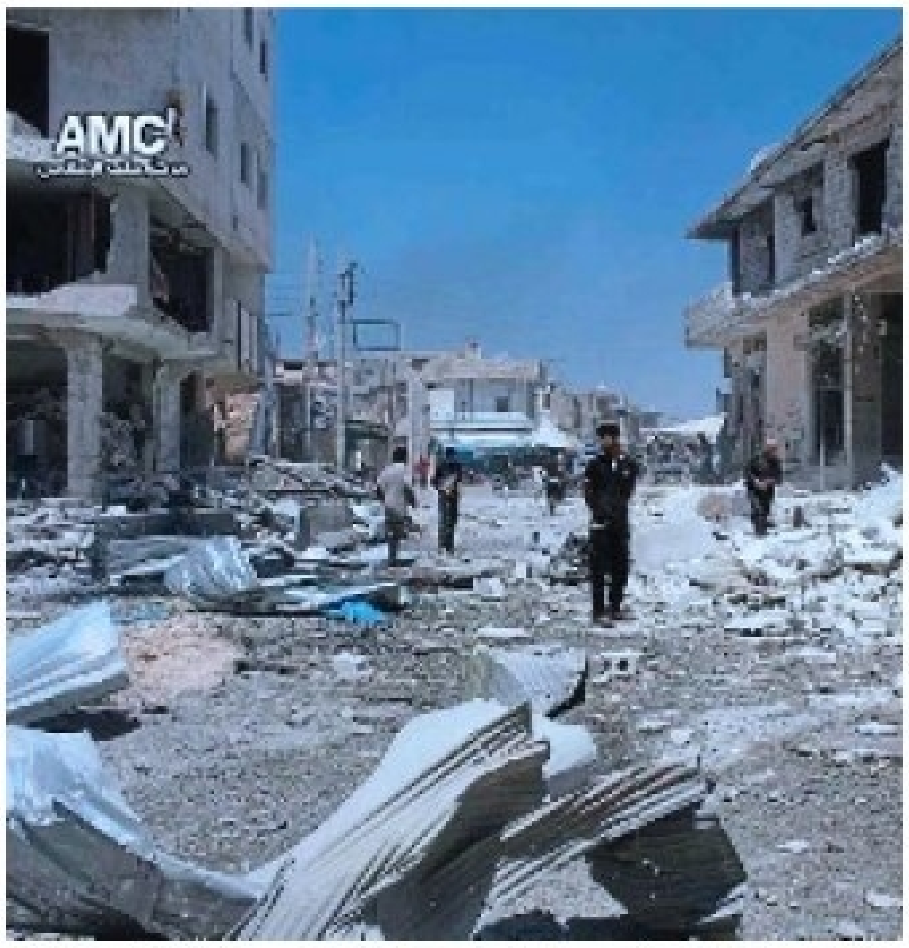

Syrian citizens inspecting damaged shops after airstrikes hit a market in Atareb, west of Aleppo, Syria on Tuesday.
ALEPPO MEDIA CENTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No letup in Aleppo

SYRIA

UN urges humanitarian pause in strife

A senior UN humanitarian official urged Thursday for an immediate pause to the fighting around Syria's contested city of Aleppo as government forces pounded opposition areas with airstrikes and rebels kept up their attempts to break a government siege.

In Geneva, Jan Egeland, adviser to the UN's special envoy to Syria, said the world body was ready to send relief to the city divided between government-controlled and opposition-controlled areas once the fighting pauses.

300,000

The number of residents the UN estimates remain in rebel-held parts of Aleppo.

The last delivery to reach those trapped in rebel-held parts of Aleppo — where the UN estimates some 300,000 residents remain — was in June, he said.

Russia had declared it is offering humanitarian corridors for residents in the area, but rights groups said such passages are not neutral and don't offer guarantees to civilians wishing to use them.

Meanwhile, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported at least 40 airstrikes on opposition areas of Aleppo and nearby towns, including an attack on a camp for internally displaced Syrians in Atareb, a town to the southwest.

The Aleppo Media Center, another activist group, said at least two people were killed in the Atareb attack.

The Syrian Civil Defence group said a followup attack on the camp wounded two of its volunteers, including one seriously.

Also, anti-government activists and a doctor said a missile fell 15 metres from a hospital, seriously wounding a boy. The doctor refused to identify himself or the hospital, fearing it could be targeted again.

Egeland said that in July alone, 44 attacks on hospitals, clinics and health posts around Syria were reported. He added that the UN is hoping at least to "get to a point where we can give co-ordinates to the parties and not have the hospitals bombed.''

Across Syria, Egeland said, the UN was only able to meet 40 per cent of its aid delivery targets for June and July. The UN had hoped to reach 1.2 million people over the last two months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS

Crane delivers aid to stranded Syrians

Cranes hoisted huge white bags with rice, lentils and dates from Jordan into tent camps on the Syrian side of a border berm — an unprecedented way of delivering UN aid to tens of thousands of displaced Syrians cut off from outside help for almost two months.

The three-day delivery to two makeshift encampments in a remote desert area ended Thursday, UN aid agencies said.

Relief over getting badly needed aid to the Ruqban and Hadalat camps was muted by concern over deteriorating conditions there. Some camp residents have dug holes for sleeping after selling flimsy shelters for scarce food and water, said a displaced Syrian, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions if he were to return home.

Aid agencies have said disease, malnutrition and dehydration are on the rise.

This week's shipment of 650 metric tons of food and hygiene kits was a one-off — Jordan has said it would bar future deliveries from its soil on security grounds.

Cranes drop food across the Jordan-Syria border on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The international community is scrambling for alternatives, but no viable option has emerged. Sending supplies from war-ravaged Syria appears risky, while UN officials say aid dropped by planes could end up in the wrong hands.

The number of Syrians stranded on the Jordanian border, awaiting entry, has grown to more than 75,000, according to UN figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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High-tech sector needs workers

ALBERTA JOBS

Skills of laid off oilpatch employees not transferable

As the oilpatch bleeds jobs, Alberta's high-tech sector finds itself in need of workers. TODD KOROL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When Jeff Forsyth was laid off by Cenovus Energy during a company-wide downsizing last fall, he had an advantage over the hundreds of fellow employees who also found themselves out of work.

His experience with a successful oilfield technology startup, along with expertise in chemistry and project management he honed at Cenovus, helped him land a new job as CEO of nFluids Inc., a five-person research firm developing new industrial products based on nanoparticle technology.

Forsyth's story is one of rare success. While it may seem logical that the thousands of Albertans who have lost jobs over the past two years would simply find work in the thriving high-tech sector, that's not the case. Though often well-educated as engineers and geologists, their skills don't match what is needed, observers say.

Investor David Edmonds, who has been working with technology start-ups in Calgary for about 30 years, helped create nFluids and has been raising money to commercialize it. The company has signed a licensing agreement with an international chemical manufacturer to market its first product, an enhanced drilling fluid additive, but it is also looking at applications ranging from pharmaceuticals to cement and lubricants, said Edmonds, 61.

"I'd been searching for a CEO to replace myself for about 18 months," he said. "Because of the downturn, I got probably one of the top guys in Alberta to now run that company. Three years ago, there wouldn't have been a hope that I could have got Jeff."

Edmonds said the province's biggest technology labour need now is software developers and programmers, and the oil industry doesn't employ many of those.

> **I got probably one of the top guys in Alberta.**
> David Edmonds

One of the fastest growing technology firms in Calgary is Benevity Inc., a company whose software helps clients around the world, including Google and Coca-Cola, match and encourage employee charitable giving.

Founder and CEO Bryan de Lottinville said the seven-year-old company has been doubling in size every year and has grown to about 265 employees. He has openings for 55 more staff but said he can't find suitable people, despite industry estimates that 44,000 direct jobs have been lost in the energy industry since oil prices began sliding in 2014.

"A lot of our open positions are more technical in nature — software developers and quality assurance people," de Lottinville said.

"When technical people work in the oil and gas sector, they tend not to be as useful to pure software companies because they are doing esoteric things," he continued, suggesting they often work on dated software.

That said, de Lottinville said Benevity has benefited financially from the slowdown in the oilpatch. Some of the office space the company is leasing at its current location is being sublet by a previous tenant for just $5 per square foot, less than one-quarter of the original lease rate.

One of the biggest indirect benefits is the value of the Canadian dollar, he said, which has fallen with the price of oil. "Most technology companies and ours specifically have an international market, which means the denigration of the dollar has helped us," he said. "The majority of our revenues are in U.S. dollars and the majority of our expenses are in Canadian."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Britain tries to soften shock

The Bank of England cut its key rate to 0.25 per cent and agreed to pump in $79 billion US to jolt confidence into an economy shocked by the Brexit vote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRANSPORT CANADA

Fatality triggers airbag probe

The July 8 death of the driver of a 2009 Hyundai Elantra in Newfoundland and Labrador has sparked a new probe into a potentially deadly airbag problem affecting vehicles on both sides of the U.S. border.

Transport Canada and the RCMP are investigating the cause of the incident, as well as the manufacturer — ARC Automotive Inc. of Knoxville, Tenn., which is already under investigation by American authorities. According to NHTSA, the Elantra in the Newfoundland crash had an ARC inflator that was made in China.

Although the results are similar, the ARC problem is different from one that resulted in the recall of 69 million inflators in the U.S. made by Takata Corp. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Jake Carver

Take notice that on the **20th day of October 2016 at 10:45 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 821, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Judicial Dispute Resolution will take place.

Take notice that on the **20th day of October 2016 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1408, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a hearing will take place.

Take notice that on the **1st day of December 2016 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1408, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Pre-trial Conference will take place.

Take notice that on the **10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 19th days of January 2017 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Trial will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **May 10, 2007.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

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A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your children born on **September 22, 2005; May 10, 2007; January 25, 2015; January 25, 2015.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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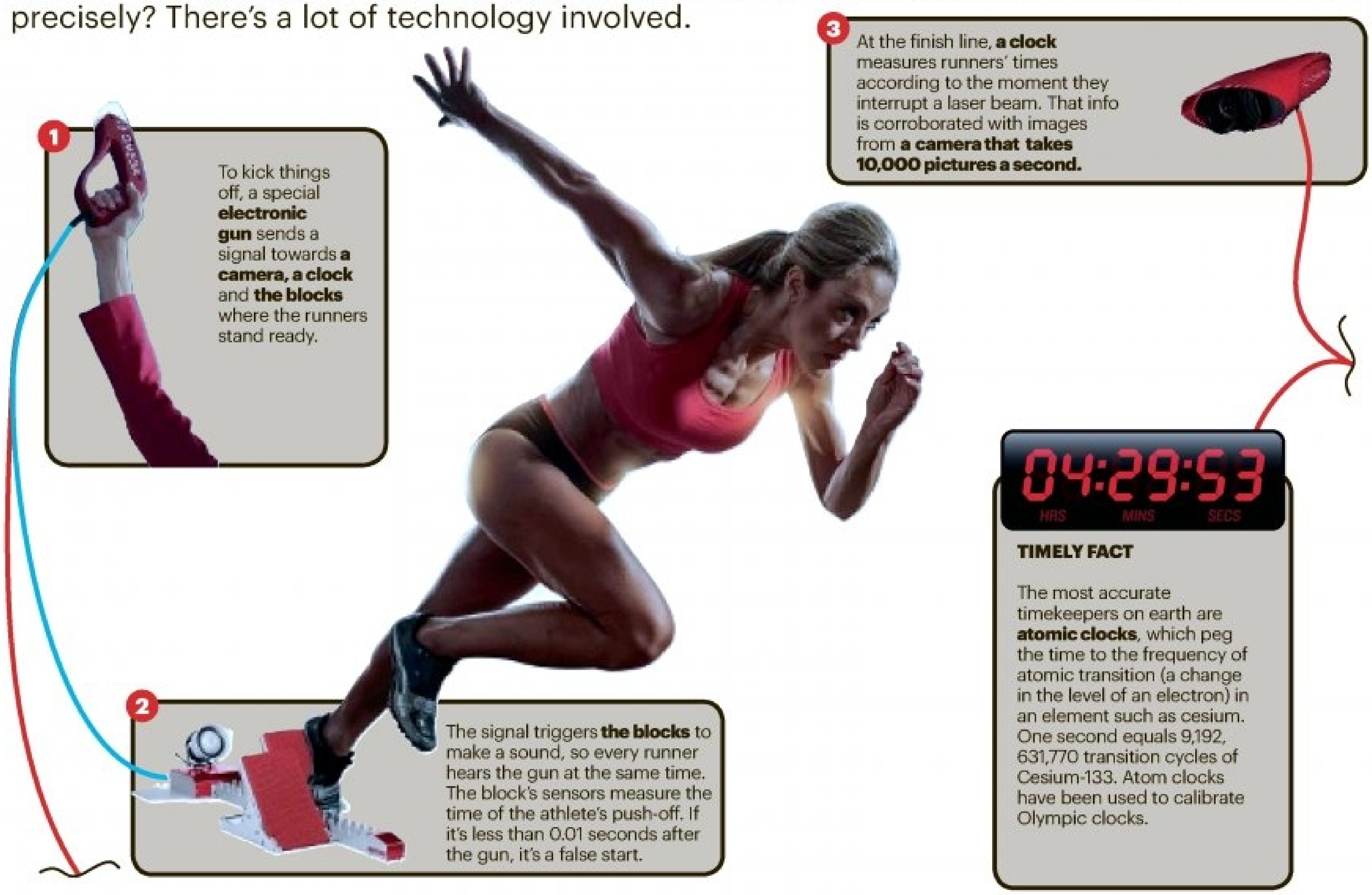
DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

READY, SET GO: OLYMPIC TIMEKEEPING

By just 0.12 seconds, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt surpassed his closest rival to reach the 100m-sprint finish line — and a new Olympic record — at the 2012 London games. And that wasn't considered anywhere near a squeaker. How can Olympic authorities measure time so precisely? There's a lot of technology involved.



1 To kick things off, a special **electronic gun** sends a signal towards **a camera, a clock** and **the blocks** where the runners stand ready.

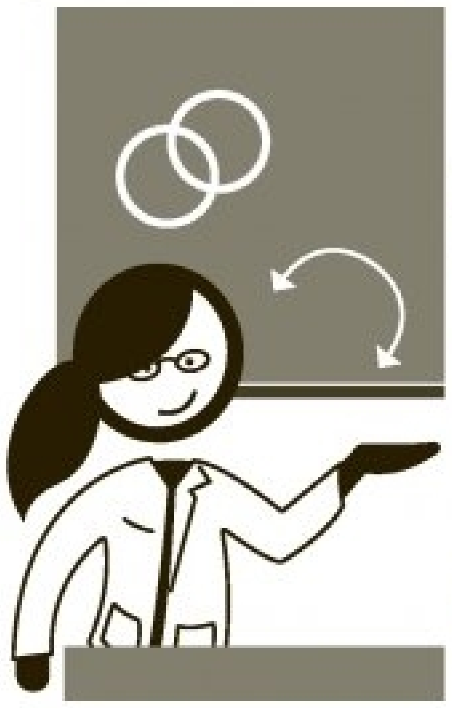
2 The signal triggers **the blocks** to make a sound, so every runner hears the gun at the same time. The block's sensors measure the time of the athlete's push-off. If it's less than 0.01 seconds after the gun, it's a false start.

3 At the finish line, **a clock** measures runners' times according to the moment they interrupt a laser beam. That info is corroborated with images from **a camera that takes 10,000 pictures a second.**

TIMELY FACT

The most accurate timekeepers on earth are **atomic clocks**, which peg the time to the frequency of atomic transition (a change in the level of an electron) in an element such as cesium. One second equals 9,192, 631,770 transition cycles of Cesium-133. Atom clocks have been used to calibrate Olympic clocks.

SOURCES INCLUDE SCIENCE 360/THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION; GRAPHICS: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO



CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Why is sweat so smelly?

Why does my sweat smell so bad? — Angela, Toronto

There's nothing noxious about sweat, per se. It's almost all salt and water.

We can thank our bacteria friends for that stinky B.O. aroma.

Your sweat contains traces of a number of different chemicals, including proteins, cholesterol, the building blocks of steroid hormones, and all sorts of fats.

The friendly bacteria living on your skin helpfully break these down for us. Unfortunately the results of that breakdown, which are vividly called 'volatile odorous products,' tend to smell pretty bad.

According to a 2011 paper in the International Journal of Cosmetic Science, although lots of different species live there, there's one main type of armpit-dwelling bacteria responsible for much of the stink: aerobic corynebacteria.

People with persistent BO often have more corynebacteria relative to other, less stinky species, such as staphylococci (the neutral kind, not the nasty ones that cause skin infections and sepsis).

I learned something fun while researching the answer to this question. Did you know sweat produced in the armpits and groin is actually different from the sweat on the rest of your body?

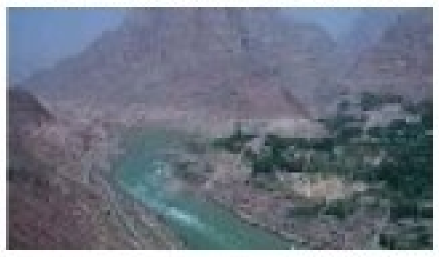
Most of your skin is covered in eccrine glands, which secrete clear sweat that cools you off as it dries.

The underarms and groin have more apocrine glands, located in hair follicles. The sweat from those is oilier and slightly opaque, with more potentially stinky compounds. It's also the type secreted when you're under emotional stress.

Also, did you know the scientific word for armpits is **axillae**? You learn something new every day.

Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

FINDINGS
Your week in science



WU QINGLONG

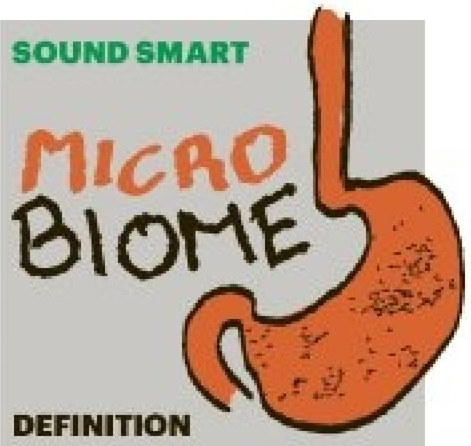
LEGEND COMES TO LIFE

The Great Flood of Chinese mythology, traditionally dated before 2000 BCE, was the event that legendarily led to the founding of the Xia dynasty and Chinese civilization. Now, carbon dating of sediments and human remains published in the journal Science strongly suggests this prehistoric calamity was real. However, it took place around 1920 BCE.

ZIKA CAN BE ZAPPED

A test of three different experimental vaccines against the Zika virus found all are 100 per cent effective in monkeys.

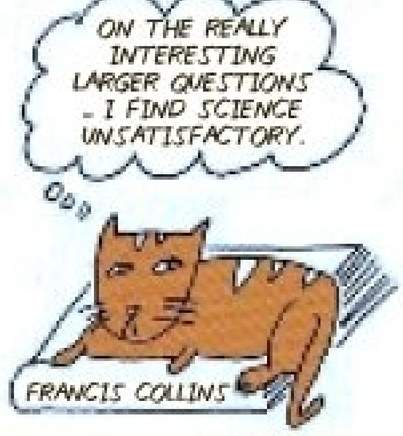
SOUND SMART



DEFINITION
The **microbiome** is the ecosystem in you. Perhaps 1,000 species of microorganisms live in your gut, on your skin, and all over your body. There are nearly as many non-human cells, mostly bacteria, in your body as there are human ones.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Luigi's multicoloured boogers look like they're their own ecosystem. In fact, they are. The bacteria in there are part of the **microbiome**.

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Jared Leto had some big shoes to fill in playing the joker. He's the third Oscar winner to take on the role following Jack Nicholson and Heath Ledger. CONTRIBUTED

Leto's performance was no joke

SUICIDE SQUAD

Actor stayed in character, scared co-stars

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

To prepare for his role in Suicide Squad, method actor Jared Leto went full Joker.

"I had to be committed beyond belief," he says. As the third Oscar winner to play The Joker, after Jack Nicholson and Heath Ledger, he said, "We knew we had to strike new ground. There had been such great work we knew we had to go in a different direction."

An adaptation of the DC Comics antihero series, Suicide Squad sees supervillains like El Diablo (Jay Hernandez) and Rick Flag (Joel Kinnaman) as well as Leto's Harlequin of Hate perform perilous black ops missions in return for clemency.

Director David Ayer describes it as a "comic-book version of The Dirty Dozen."

Leto immersed himself in the role to the point his cast mates didn't know where the actor ended and the Joker began. Jai Courtney said, "Let's put it this way. I haven't seen him, since we started working, out-of-character." Margot Robbie and Scott Eastwood, who is Leto's friend in real life, both say the actor's on-set behaviour scared them.

To create his take on the Clown Prince of Crime he mixed-and-matched influences from the Batman comic Arkham Asylum: A Serious House on Serious Earth along with shamans and Mexican cartels. "The Joker is fantastic because there are no rules," he says.

The only rule Leto subscribed to was to never break out of character, whether he was filming or not.

His conduct made headlines when it was reported that he gave the cast and crew some Jokerinspired presents. "He did some bad things, Jared Leto did," said co-star Viola Davis. "He gave some really horrific gifts."

Robbie, who plays the baseball bat-wielding villain Harley Quinn, received a love letter and a live rat in a black box. She kept the rodent, which she named Rat Rat, for the duration of the Toronto shoot because, "If Harley got something from Joker, she'd probably cherish it." When filming was complete Guillermo del Toro adopted the rodent renaming it Vestuniano.

Will Smith, who plays sharpshooter Deadshot, was also sent a letter accompanied by a bullet and Killer Croc portrayer Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje received a "used" Playboy magazine.

Leto's gift on the first day of shooting was an eye opener. He missed the first few days of filming, so to let everyone know he was thinking of them he sent over a dead hog and a video of the Joker.

"Basically, what he said was, 'Guys, I can't be there but I want you to know I'm doing my work as hard as you guys,'" Adam Beach said.

"The video he showed is in character. It blew our minds away."

Did his methods pay off? Seems so. Ben Affleck describes Leto's performance as "genius" and Ayer declares, "I think it's going to be hard for anyone to ever imagine anyone else as the Joker."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Suicide Squad	★★
Indignation	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS

★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
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Dallas Howard's sister cried when she learned of reboot

INTERVEW

Actress stars in Pete's Dragon, a childhood family favourite

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Bryce Dallas Howard is in the middle of a long day of promoting her new film, Pete's Dragon.

Up since the crack of dawn, she's fresh and funny, cuddling a stuffed dragon on her lap as we speak. The plushy, she tells me, is both promotional and practical.

"I have my little plush toy," she says.

"He's so cute, isn't he? I also use him as a neck pillow on the plane. He's absolutely functional."

In this reboot of the much-loved 1977 Disney musical, Howard plays forest ranger Grace who discovers Pete (Oakes Fegley), a feral 10-year-old mystery boy who says he has survived, solo, in the woods for six years.

"Nobody can survive in a forest for six years," says her father (Robert Redford), "at least not alone."

"He says he wasn't alone," replies Grace.

Turns out, Pete's friend and provider is a giant, furry green dragon named Elliott.

"When I heard there was going to be another Pete's Dragon I asked to read the script," she says.

"Not because I had any knowledge of there being a role, I was just really curious about what they would do.

"I had mixed feelings. I thought, 'How are they going to do a faithful adaptation of it?'

"Then, when I read it I was so moved because the story is deeply emotional, very cathartic, very powerful and it held onto the elements of the original 1977 film that I cared about.

"(The original) was one of those movies growing up that we had on VHS and would watch again and again and again.

"When I told my little sister I was going to be doing Pete's Dragon she burst into tears because it was a big part of our childhood."

Howard is a child of Hollywood, the daughter of Happy Days star and Oscar-winning director Ron Howard.

"When I was growing up, I would meet folks who were quite recognizable but I didn't spend a ton of time with actors," she says.

That made her first meeting with legendary co-star Robert Redford all the more powerful.

"I was riding on the back of Elliott — just a regular day on set," she says with a laugh.

"I was meant to dismount the dragon and see my father, Robert Redford, and across a great distance we run toward one another and we embrace. I hadn't met Bob yet.

"I knew the action of the scene but without rehearsing it, we went into it. I got really excited and I started picking up speed and I have a very strong body, a dense body, I'm big-boned, and I was running faster and faster and when we finally hugged I'm shocked I didn't knock him down.

"He's a very sturdy person as well but it was a very intense collision. When (director) David (Lowery) yelled 'Cut!' Bob tuned to me and said, 'You came at me like a cannonball.' I couldn't have planned anything more embarrassing."

"I get star-struck very easily," she says while admitting Redford's talent and accomplishments wowed her.

"When people sometimes ask, 'Who do you most look up to? Who do you want to be like?', the answer to that question is probably my dad, but Robert Redford is a close second. That's why it was so trippy to have him be my dad."

Bryce Dallas Howard is Grace and Oakes Fegley is Pete in Pete's Dragon. CONTRIBUTED

CAT PEOPLE

Cheryl Hines talks Nine Lives, Curb

Cheryl Hines was already a pro at handling animals going into the filming of Nine Lives, out Friday.

The Curb Your Enthusiasm star plays the ex-wife to Kevin Spacey's character Tom, who winds up trapped inside the body of a cat he buys for his daughter (Malina Weissman). Co-stars include Christopher Walken as a mysterious pet-shop owner, Jennifer Garner as Tom's current wife, and Toronto native Robbie Amell as his son.

Hines felt right at home with the star feline: growing up in Florida, her family had as many as 17 outdoor cats at a time in their suburban backyard playhouse.

"There were times when we would have to put ribbons around the kittens' necks and then put them in a wagon and take them around the neighbourhood to try to get rid of the kittens," she says.

"Really, looking back on it, the neighbours couldn't have loved it."

These days, Hines doesn't have cats but she does have two dogs (including a puppy), an emu and five tortoises.

She says her daughter and her husband, environmental activist and author Robert Kennedy Jr., are huge animal lovers.

The emu lives outdoors.

"Although our bigger dog knows how to open the back door," says Hines. "So he opens the sliding-glass door and then the emu likes to come inside.

"It's just a circus at my house."

As for the blue-eyed furball in Nine Lives, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld of the Men in Black films, Hines reveals there were actually a few of them.

"One of them ... his fur wasn't quite as full as the other ones, so they had a little fur collar that they would put on him. So he had to wear a weave," she says with a laugh.

"I imagined it like a giant scrunchie — a very soft, fluffy scrunchie."

Hines says she was attracted to the project because she's a huge fan of Sonnenfeld's work.

She was also pleased to take on a project she can enjoy with her 12-year-old daughter.

"When she saw this film, she said, 'Why am I not playing your daughter?'" says Hines. "I said, 'Oh, I didn't know you were an actress.' She said, 'I could do that, I could play that part.'

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jennifer Garner and Cheryl Hines star in Nine Lives. HANODOUT

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David Ayer: Why it's good to be bad

SUICIDE SQUAD

Director waxes on the merits of fighting evil with evil

Margot Robbie, above, as Harley Quinn may play one of the marquee characters in Suicide Squad, but it's Viola Davis (below, inset) who steals the show with her lines. CONTRIBUTED

Suicide Squad's David Ayer isn't one to mince words — he apologized to his Marvel Comics rivals this week after playfully uttering a rude taunt — so his comparison of filmmaking to extreme surgery hardly surprises.

"It's like when you hack off a limb," the brawny writer/director says from a New York promotional stop.

"Just use a skin graft to fix it."

He's describing necessary reshoots for his made-in-Toronto DC Comics summer blockbuster, opening Friday, in which a band of supervillains fronted by Will Smith and Margot Robbie are called upon to do good, despite their worst instincts.

Pesky Internet rumours had it the reshoots were ordered by Warner Bros. suits to add more comedy to the villainy, after DC's dour Batman v. Superman disappointed while Marvel's rude Deadpool delighted earlier this year.

The rumours were FUBAR, to use an acronym an ex-U. S. navy man like Ayer, 48, would appreciate. He says the reshoots added action, not laughs.

"If you know about filmmaking, you can't just go and drop in jokes like hair plugs in a scalp. It doesn't work," he asserts.

"The tone of the movie is determined in principal photography on the set. And what happened was, the studio saw it, and they knew — suspected — that maybe we had something here. They just wanted it to be the best movie that it could be, so we rolled our sleeves up and added some action."

Like the task-oriented cops and soldiers of his previous films — he wrote Training Day, and wrote and directed End of Watch and Fury — Ayer approached Suicide Squad as a dirty job that somebody had to do right and that somebody was going to be him.

You've previously made films grounded in reality, like the tough streets of L.A. where you grew up or the historic battlefields of World War II. Was it hard to shift into pure fantasy?
I like to think I successfully split the baby, where you sort of get the wonder and spectacle and beauty and the tropes of a comic movie while at the same time doing what I love as a director: really focusing on characters and relationships and the performances by the actors.

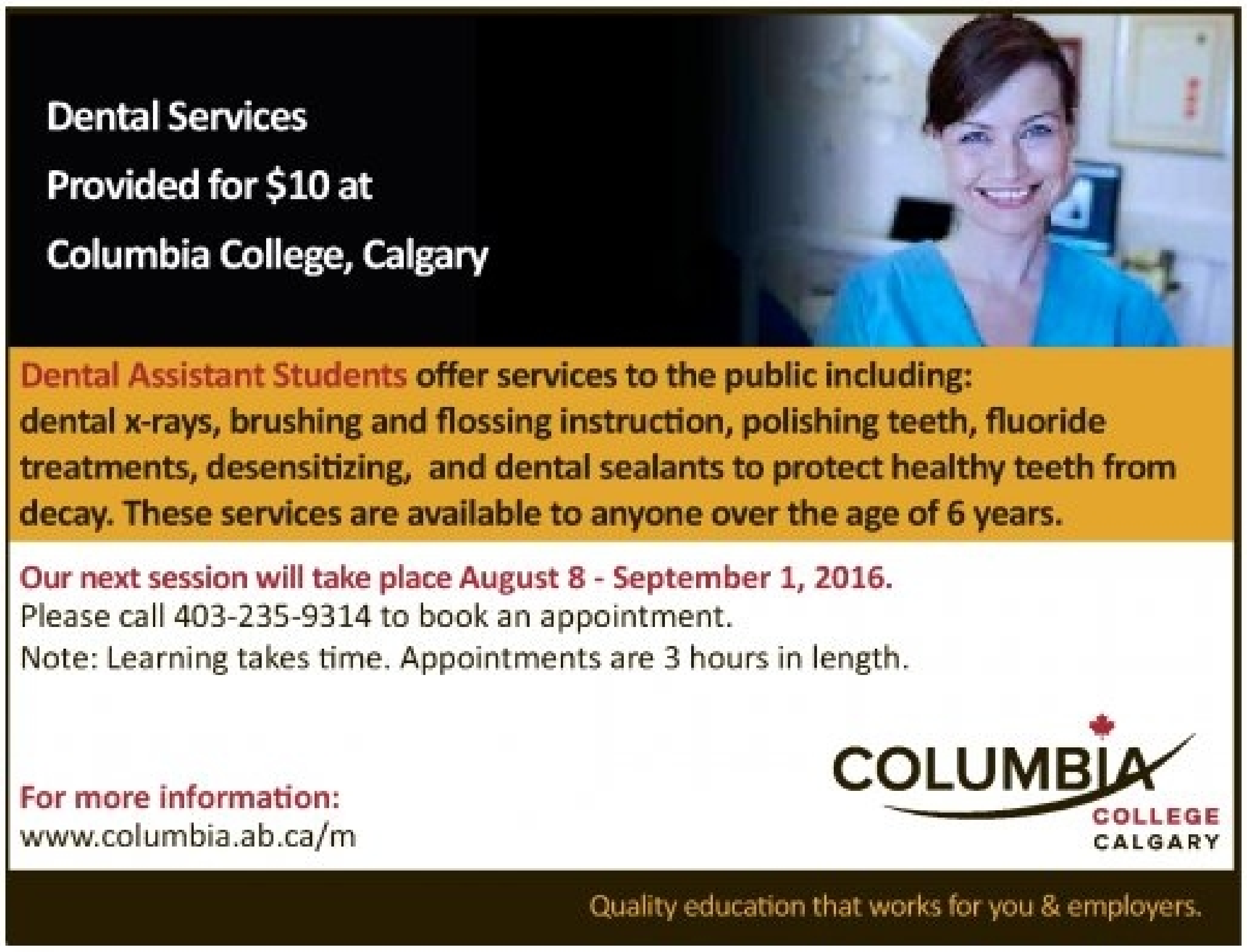
That sentiment really comes through in the bar scene, also used in an early teaser, in which the Suicide Squad members bond over booze.
That scene is really why I wanted to make the movie. I imagined what it would be like to have these comic book supervillains in a very deep, realistic, well-acted and well-crafted dramatic scene, really opening up to each other, just like anybody in the real world does. I'm really proud of the work the actors did in that scene. I think they're on fire.

The notion of using evil to fight evil isn't completely fantasy, as you point out in the film. A character talks about the U.S. government collaborating with the Mafia to fight Hitler.
Yes, it's a complex world out there. Look, you take law enforcement and they use criminals to help them on cases all the time. And the U.S. government has definitely had to deal with some shady folks to get the job done.

Will Smith's Deadshot, Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn and Jared Leto's Joker grab the movie's marquee. But Viola Davis's tough U.S. government official Amanda Waller, who creates Suicide Squad's Task Force X, gets many of the best lines.
That's the thing. It's such a colourful, eclectic movie and cast, and yet she kind of steals every scene. She just becomes, in a lot of ways, the core of the movie. Viola has to control these supervillains and has to be almost tougher and scarier and more intense than any of them. It's amazing, because even though she's a government bureaucrat, she's also one of the most terrifying characters in the film.

There are quite a few laughs in the film, despite the grim subject matter and characters. But you've always had some comedy in even your most bleak movies.
Exactly. For me, to be entertaining, drama wears both a happy mask and a sad mask. It's not two sad masks. And when you look at these insane characters — I've got a crocodile running around and Harley Quinn swinging a baseball bat — you just have to enjoy the craziness of that and embrace it.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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SUICIDE SQUAD

Canadian teen plays Deadshot's daughter

Shailyn Pierre-Dixon
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shailyn Pierre-Dixon of Caledon, Ont., can't say much about the time she juggled school by day and supervillains by night.

As Deadshot's daughter Zoe in the highly anticipated film Suicide Squad, the 13-year-old actor had to shoot her scenes early in the morning or late at night, surrounded by hundreds of screaming fans in downtown Toronto. When she wasn't on set or sleeping, she was attending school.

How much screen time does she have? Did she get to ride in the Batmobile? Did she have any action sequences?

Unfortunately, in keeping with the secrecy surrounding the plot, she has to keep largely quiet until the film comes out Friday.

"They've been asking me so many questions at school and I've been trying so hard to keep it a secret, because I know I can get in a lot of trouble if I let them know," she says.

"So I haven't really spoken about it. I've just said that it was great working with him and that's pretty much it."

That "him" is Will Smith, who plays Deadshot, one of several supervillains recruited by the government to defeat an enigmatic entity.

Smith was "really funny and lightened the mood on set," she says.

"He made me feel very comfortable and welcome when I got on set, every time. My grandma went on set one day with me and ... he gave her a hug and it was one of the most exciting things I've ever seen. Her face lit up and it was great."

Pierre-Dixon also met cast members including Margot Robbie ("she was great") and Cara Delevingne, who "was so nice and funny" — and salty-humoured.

"She was always cracking jokes and she made a swear-jar thing with me because she swore a lot around me, so she gave me this money," says Pierre-Dixon, who later added it was a joke between them and that no money was actually exchanged.

"It was a great experience with all of them."

> **Every time I hear something about it, I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I am a part of this big thing!'**
> Shailyn Pierre-Dixon

David Ayer wrote and directed the film, based on the DC Comics anti-hero team of the same name.

Pierre-Dixon got an audition based on her work in projects including The Book of Negroes and Between.

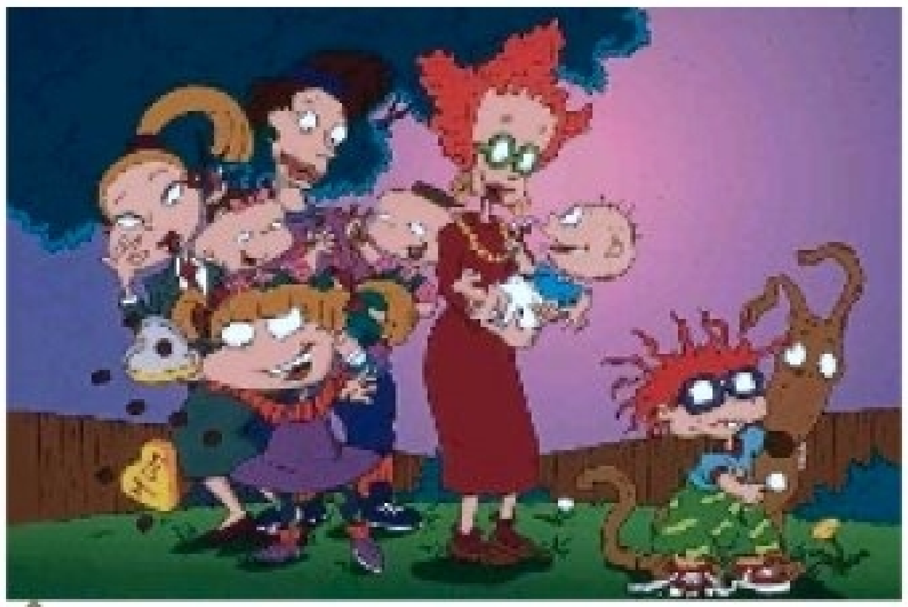
It was a dream role for the comic-book lover, who dressed as Batman for Halloween when she was just 3.

"As soon as I got the audition, I thought, 'If I'm working with Will Smith, it has to be big,'" she says. "I'm just excited to see it. Even if I wasn't in it, I would still just want to see it over and over again, because I love the idea of this movie and I was so happy being a part of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

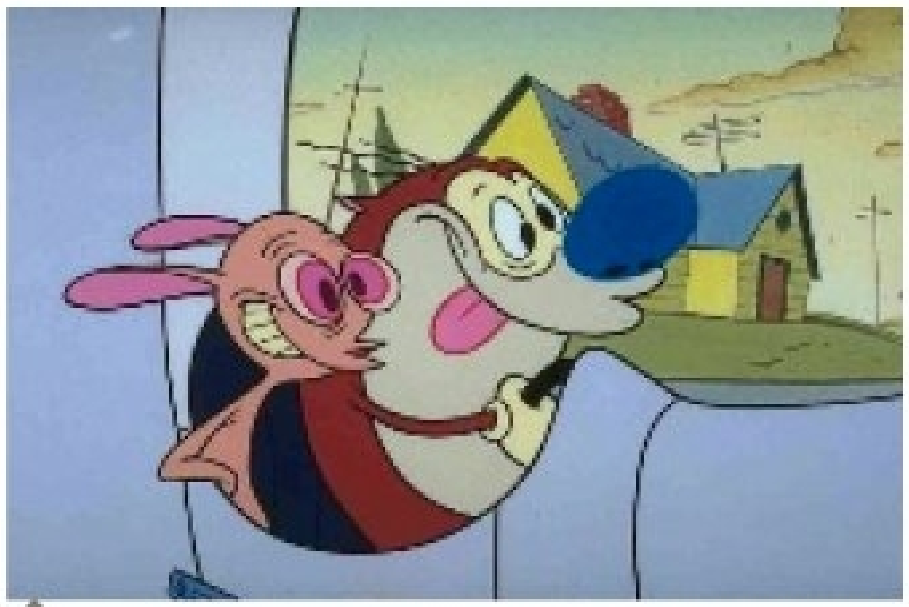
4 BEST NICKTOONS

It's a happy-happy, joy-joyous time for Nickelodeon. Yes, 25 years ago — Aug. 11, 1991 to be exact — the kids' programming titan aired its first three original Nicktoons: Doug, The Ren & Stimpy Show and Rugrats. A look at some of the longest-running and most influential shows of Nickelodeon's past. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



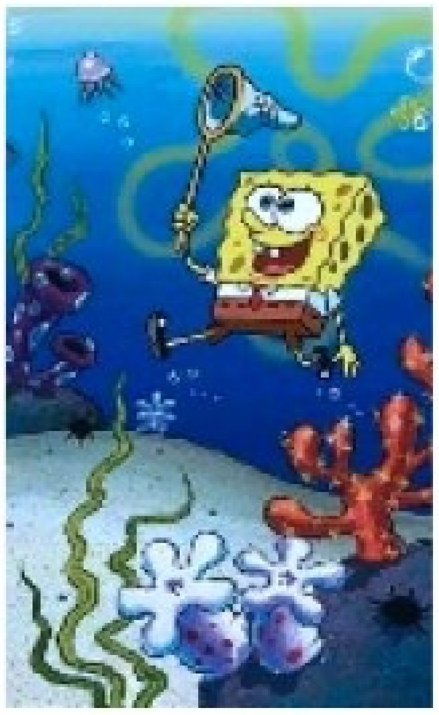
1 Rugrats (1991-2004)

The adventures of Tommy, Chuckie, the great Angelica and all the other quotable toddlers have now captivated viewers to the tune of nine seasons, 172 episodes, a trilogy of theatrical films (including 1998's The Rugrats Movie, which grossed over $100 million), a TV spinoff, a comic strip and 19 video games. Fans were still floored by rumours of a reboot last year.



2 The Ren & Stimpy Show (1991-1995)

Though Ren & Stimpy is far from the network's longest-running toon, only a stupid eediot would discount its influence. With off-colour gags, absurdist black humour and enough winking innuendo to stir parents' groups to ire (the show forced Nickelodeon to establish a standards and practices department), the titular irritable Chihuahua and his ever-chipper buddy helped set the stage for a decade of controversial cartoons that followed.

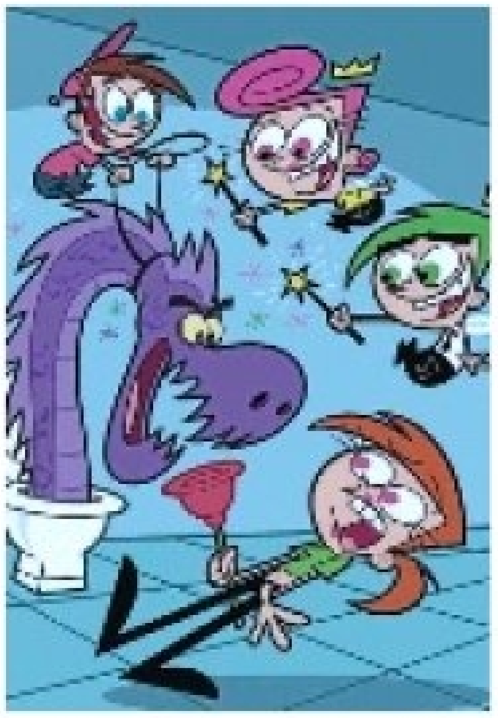


3 SpongeBob SquarePants (1999-present)

This upbeat sea sponge sure has soaked up some serious adulation over his network-record run. The irrepressibly cheerful, wilfully strange and nine-time Emmy-nominated toon has spawned three soundtracks, two lucrative films, amusement park rides, video games and billions of dollars in merchandise sales that should ensure SpongeBob a comfortable retirement, should he ever leave the fry-cook game.

The Fairly OddParents (2001-present) 4

With a wave of its magic wand, Nickelodeon found another durable smash with this energetic hit about 10-year-old Timmy and the fairy godparents who grant his wishes (to often chaotic effect). The show lags behind only SpongeBob in terms of Nicktoon longevity supremacy. Celebrity guest stars have included Jay Leno, Queen Latifah, Adam West, Alec Baldwin, Jason Bateman and Dana Carvey.



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Godzilla menaces world once more

SCIENCE FICTION

Iconic walking disaster zone updated for modern decade

Godzilla is back in its homeland of Japan after a 12-year absence, still breathing fire and mercilessly stomping everything in its way. The new film Shin Godzilla, or New Godzilla, is now showing in theatres in Japan and is promised for the U.S. and other countries later this year. Here's a look at how breaks from its past and is also familiar.

What's different

- **The Americans:** Japan's most important ally sends scientists and other advisers, their participation depicted at times as a nuisance. A Japanese-American special envoy, played impudently by Satomi Ishihara, asks where the nearest Zara store is but mainly mediates between Japan and the U.S., which is worried Godzilla might reach its shores. She resists a U.S. proposal to nuke Godzilla. Given that the 2014 Hollywood Godzilla helped Toho film studio decide to revive the series it originated, the U.S. has proved a true ally for Godzilla's silver screen survival.

- **The man behind the monster:** Godzilla is not a man wearing a rubber suit, like in the 1954 original. Toho used motion-capture technology based on the movements of Mansai Nomura, an actor in traditional Kyogen theatre whose casting was a secret until opening day. Nomura said he was honoured to be chosen for the role. "I am thrilled that the DNA of Kyogen, which has more than 650 years of history, will now be part of the DNA of the pride of Japanese cinema, that life called Godzilla," he said in a statement.

- **The 2011 Fukushima disaster:** Godzilla is no longer a result of nuclear testing. Instead, the monster recalls the March 2011 quake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that devastated northeastern Japan. In the film, people measure the radiation around them and share information on social media, as they did five years ago. Scenes of people fleeing from torrents of water and later huddled in gymnasiums bring back heartbreaking memories of the 2011 disaster.

- **Defending itself:** Post-Second World War Japan has repeatedly stressed it will abide by pacifism. When Godzilla crashes onto its shores, Japan debates how far it can go in defending itself. That reflects a modern debate over using Japan's military beyond its self-defence role. The original monster symbolized the tragedy of nuclear power and, through it, the ability of humankind to destroy itself. Now the threat we perceive could be anything but is almost certainly a horror we brought on ourselves.

What's familiar

- **The monster:** Godzilla at first looks like a snake or an eel slithering through the city. Nearly an hour into the movie, it stands upright like the Godzilla we know, with protruding scales lining its back and a giant tail lashing uncontrollably. The way the 1954 original was scripted, Godzilla was more about the nightmare that reflects our deepest fears.

- **The destruction:** The new film is inspired by the storyline of the 1954 original, more than the rest of Toho's 28-film series that had Godzilla battling oversized moths, evil robots and other fantastic creatures. It smashes the same landmarks as all the other Godzillas, such as Tokyo Station, the parliament building and the Wako department store with the clock tower.

- **The sounds:** That same eerie screech, created by scratching contrabass strings, is heard. And this film pays homage to the original music. When the credits roll, with Nomura's name closing the 329-strong actors' lineup, it's the same composition by Akira Ifukube that plays, a fitting ending for the Japanese comeback of Godzilla.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Godzilla is back in its homeland of Japan after a 12-year absence, still breathing fire and mercilessly stomping everything in its way. KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE TV DINNER **JESSICA ALLEN**

True nostalgia ... doesn't just toy with memory. It makes you melancholy for a time that you'll never get back

Stand By Me turned 30 last week: I remember that summer of '86 vividly: It was the summer my friend, her dog Princess, and I packed up some Red Hots and cold pops and hiked along the train tracks behind my house; the summer that my dad took me aside to tell me that the term "pussy," which I was using quite liberally — just like the four boys searching for a dead body in the Rob Reiner film — meant more than "scaredy-cat"; and it was the last summer that I just played, right up until the night before Junior High. That first day of Grade 7 I got a rude awakening. Somehow my peers received a memo that we were grown up now, only I didn't get it. I was 11.

No wonder that the film, based on a novella by Stephen King, is steeped in nostalgia for me. And not for the 1950s, the time period in which the film is set, but for who I was when I first saw it. Same for the creators and cast, who spoke with Variety to compile an oral history commemorating the anniversary. Reiner recalled how the film he directed almost didn't see the light of day because no one in Hollywood thought anyone would watch it.

Others recollections were more selective: "I do remember from the novel, a piece of information that's given away very early, is that Chris dies (as an adult)," Richard Dreyfuss, who played the film's narrator recalled about River Phoenix's character. "I think it's one of the ways that Rob improved on the story. You don't know that until the end and it breaks your heart."

THE MOVIE:
Blueberry Tarts

THE MEAL:
Stand By Me

Only that's not true. While Simon was at work on Sunday, I re-watched the film, which opens with Dreyfuss in a car parked along a country road holding a newspaper clipping. "Attorney Christopher Chambers Fatally Stabbed in Restaurant," the title reads.

Memory can be a funny thing, especially when you add nostalgia into the mix.

Take Stranger Things, the new eight-part sci-fi Netflix series that people my age can't stop watching. Not only does it reference Stand By Me — three boys wander on train tracks searching for their friend who's mysteriously disappeared — but the actors read lines from the film during their auditions.

And there's enough allusions to the work of Steven Spielberg — Jaws, E.T., Poltergeist, The Goonies — for a mini-retrospective. I silently observed them Sunday night, when Simon and I watched the first episode of the series, which takes place in a small town in Indiana in 1983: the year Simon was born.

Maybe that's why he was far more interested in the wild blueberry tarts I'd made that afternoon — possibly inspired, now that I think of it, from Stand By Me's scene where "Lard Ass" triumphs during a blueberry pie-eating contest — than continuing with the show. So I had no choice but to finish Stranger Things by myself during a holiday Monday marathon. Yes, I was entertained. But the appeal to films from my childhood felt laboured at times, even superficial, concealing outlandish and weak plot points. True nostalgia, from the Greek for "homecoming" and "pain," doesn't just toy with memory. It makes you melancholy for a time that you'll never get back.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

GOSSIP BRIEF

Kim's BlackBerry has died and she's 'sad' about it

Kim Kardashian is getting emotional over the death of her BlackBerry.

The reality star posted on Twitter on Wednesday that her classic BlackBerry Bold finally died and she can't find a replacement on eBay. She says she "knew this day would come," but is "getting sad" as reality sets in.

She says she's considering whether to get a different kind of BlackBerry or a different brand.

She needs two phones on different services, she says, to ensure that one is always working.

BlackBerry phones once dominated the smartphone market but have been overtaken this decade by phones using Google's Android and Apple's iOS platforms.

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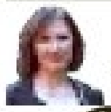


JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

If only space ants could explain Trump

THE SHOW: Brain Dead, Season 1, Episode 5 (Global/CBS)
THE MOMENT: The baby picture

In Washington DC, Republicans and Democrats have become insanely extremist — because space bugs are eating their brains. Two congressmen, righty Red (Tony Shalhoub) and lefty Luke (Danny Pino), square off.

Luke shows Red a photo of a one-year-old girl. "She's the daughter of a veteran who's dying of liver cancer, unless we vote yes on drug trials," he says.

"And what, you got some pictures taken with him?" Red asks. "Him smiling, you smiling. You save him, and he'll hug you, and there will be more photos of you saving him from the big bad Republicans."

"So you want to delay the vote because I'll get credit for saving a young man?" Luke asks.

"Don't act outraged," Red says. "You're looking at the presidency in 2020." He waggles the photo, speaking in a baby voice: "'Boo hoo, he saved my daddy, he deserves your vote.' Come on! You don't like children. No one likes children."

Brain Dead is a bizarre premise — space bugs are eating the brains of U.S. politicians. CONTRIBUTED

I bet this show seemed far-fetched when Robert and Michelle King (the married writers behind The Good Wife) conceived of it: "What if we invented a concrete explanation for why people are so opposed and entrenched? What if it was — har — bugs that crash-land on a meteor?"

The series is well-written and amusing, a PG-rated Veep crossed with Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Shalhoub can do no wrong, even when he's chewing more scenery than bugs are chewing brains. But it doesn't even approach the genuine crazy of Clinton v. Trump. Space ants would be a relief.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Tracing the evolution of the Internet

Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World, a documentary by Werner Herzog, takes an in-depth look at the roots and the future of the wired world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOCUMENTARY

Lo and Behold looks at perils and triumphs of the web

Werner Herzog has a rather distant relationship with the subject of his new documentary, Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World.

The film traces the evolution and revolution of the Internet, from its triumphs to its perils and how dependent we are on it — well, most of us.

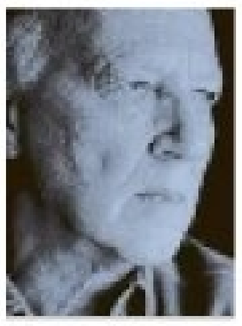
"Personally I do not use very much of the Internet," the 73-year-old Oscar- and Emmy-nominated German filmmaker said in a recent phone interview from Los Angeles.

"I do email and eventually I look at Google Maps and sometimes I do Skype with family. But that's about it. I do not have a cellphone."

Herzog, an Oscar nominee for the 2007 doc Encounters at the End of the World, said he doesn't have a cellphone "for cultural reasons."

And those social media accounts bearing his name?

"All these are fake — Facebook, Twitter, you just name it, they're voice imitators and they're people who are giving advice under my name," he said. "It's, at least, I would say three-dozen impostors out there."



> **Personally, I do not use very much of the Internet ... I do not have a cellphone.**
>
> Werner Herzog

Lo and Behold, voiced by the movie-making great, starts at the University of California, where the first Internet message was sent on Oct. 29, 1969.

Herzog looks at the Internet's growth since then, from its use in science and robotics to its dark side.

Among those profiled is a couple who was devastated when a photo of their late daughter, decapitated in a car accident, was shared online.

Herzog also speaks with players addicted to online gaming, as well as a group who claim to have become very ill from radiation sickness caused by cellphone towers.

"As far as I know it's very controversial and the main opinion is that it's a psychosomatic issue," said Herzog of their apparent illness.

"But I did not want to challenge anything and I wanted to give them at least a voice. Whatever the real medical findings are, we do not know. It's very controversial, apparently, in the medical world."

The doc also explores the Internet's role in the development of artificial intelligence and the possibility of one day posting online with telepathy.

"They can already create images of your thoughts, like two elephants are crossing the Savannah, and we have a fuzzy image that you can actually create from the thought alone," said Herzog, who will be at this year's Toronto International Film Festival with Salt and Fire.

"Or, for example, if you're speaking with me in English, the MRI could identify that this language is English. If you spoke with me in German or in Spanish, the MRI pattern would recognize the grammatical pattern of a different language."

The big question in the film: with solar flares and natural disasters disrupting communications, how do we keep the Internet running? How do we guard it? The idea of the Internet completely shutting down one day "is a palpable possibility," said Herzog.

"Massive solar flares, they occur every 200, 300 years and that would shut down the Internet, at least for quite a while," he said.

"Knowing that, we should rather disentangle certain things from the Internet — essential things.... Very basic things like water supply, electricity grid. So (we) should develop solid fallback positions that are not connected to the Internet."

Lo and Behold opens in Vancouver and Montreal on Friday; in Toronto and Calgary on Aug. 12; and in Ottawa on Aug. 26.

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U.S. ELECTION

Eastwood says Trump is 'on to something'

Clint Eastwood has stopped short of endorsing Donald Trump, but in an interview in Esquire magazine he praised the Republican presidential candidate for being "on to something."

In the interview posted online Wednesday, the actor-director hailed Trump as a foe of political correctness and lamented what he called "the kiss-ass generation."

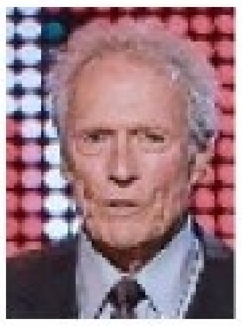
"Everybody's walking on eggshells," said Eastwood, 86. "We see people accusing people of being racist and all kinds of stuff. When I grew up, those things weren't called racist."

Eastwood, who spoke at the 2012 Republican convention — "that silly thing ... talking to the chair" — urged people to "get over it." "What Trump is onto is he's just saying what's on his mind. And sometimes it's not so good. And sometimes it's, I mean, I can understand where he's coming from, but I don't always agree with it," he said.

Eastwood said he wasn't endorsing anyone for president. But asked to choose between Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton he said, "I'd have to go for Trump, you know, 'cause she's declared that she's gonna follow in Obama's footsteps. There's been just too much funny business on both sides of the aisle."

Eastwood's film Sully — about Captain Chesley Sully Sullenberger, the airline pilot who became a national hero when he safely landed a US Airways plane on the Hudson River off Manhattan in 2009 — opens in September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



> **We see people accusing people of being racist. ...When I grew up, those things weren't called racist.**
>
> Clint Eastwood

Winnie-the-Pooh and pals get a makeover

CULTURE

Original toys from 1920 repaired and 'fluffed'

Winnie-the-Pooh and friends Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga and Tigger are celebrating a new lease on their New York City life after enjoying many adventures together.

The original toys are looking refreshed after more than a year of much needed repairs by a textile conservator. They went back on display Wednesday at the New York Public Library, where they've resided since 1987.

An English boy, Christopher Robin Milne, was their original owner.

He received them in the 1920s from his father, the author A.A. Milne, who based the Winnie-the-Pooh children's stories on the stuffed animals.

The library says the yearlong conservation included neck alignment, clavicle repair and bottom fluffing.

"Being ever mindful of their care and condition, and given recent advances in textile conservation techniques, we decided that the time was right to undertake restorative work on these treasures," library curator Michael Inman said in a statement.

"The dolls have been not only cleaned, repaired and stabilized, thereby ensuring their continued survival, but also returned to a state that is in many ways closer to how they appeared when they were in the possession of the Milne family."

Little Christopher first called the stuffed bear Edward Bear. He later renamed him, combining two names: Winnie for a real black bear at the London Zoo that had once served as a military mascot in Winnipeg, Canada, and Pooh for a pet swan.

Pooh will be 95 years old on Aug. 21 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A child views the original toys that inspired Winnie-the-Pooh at the New York Public Library.
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KIA The Power to Surprise

Frankenstein story still delivers jolts 200 years on

FRANKENSTEIN
Mary Shelley

A rained-out vacation led to Mary Shelley creating Frankenstein in the summer of 1816 . HANDOUT

ANNIVERSARY

Timeless novel speaks to fears of science gone terribly wrong

If anyone knew how to make the best out of bad cottage weather, it was Mary Shelley.

In 1816, the then-18-year-old Mary Godwin summered on Lac Leman in Switzerland with her married lover Percy Shelley, his pal Lord Byron, her stepsister and Byron's lover Claire Clairmont, and physician and noted fifth wheel John William Polidori.

Their holiday coincided with a volcanic eruption that had sparked such lousy weather, it has its own Snowmagedon-esque name: The Year Without A Summer.

Trapped indoors with a German ghost story collection, the bohemian fivesome committed to passing the time through a supernatural storytelling competition. The clear winner wasn't either of the greats of Romantic poetry in the house, Shelley or Byron, but the young woman who would become Mrs. Percy Shelley, a.k.a. Mary Shelley, who sketched out the novel that would be published two years later as Frankenstein.

The story of a doctor who creates a man from spare body parts and a jolt of electricity was inspired by contemporary experiments in galvanism, a therapeutic application of electricity. Two-hundred-years after that rained-out vacation, the work is often celebrated as the first science-fiction novel.

"There are predecessors," says Dan White, professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. "But I think Frankenstein is the first great example of a fully formed novel that takes actual contemporary science and applies it to imaginative ends."

Its themes were inspired by a cultural climate of extraordinary scientific progress. Its enduring popularity may be because that progress has rarely slowed in the intervening decades.

"I think that people are always going to have a certain amount of anxiety, and some of it is very well founded, about scientific process," says writer and Bard College literature professor Francine Prose, who wrote the introduction for a newly illustrated anniversary edition of the classic from Restless Books. "There are many aspects of science that still make us nervous, and with good reason."

Robert Cook-Deegan, a professor at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University, was one of three organizers of last month's Frankenstein's Shadow, a symposium that returned to Lac Leman for the 200th anniversary of Shelley's conception of the novel. The interdisciplinary conference explored Frankenstein's ongoing influence.

"I hold it up as a cautionary tale about secrecy and arrogance and what can go wrong, especially with a living thing that you create in the lab," he says. "I think it did tap into a lot of the angst about creating things you can't completely control and human beings can't always be trusted to be kind to the things that they produce."

Frankenstein metaphors are used to criticize genetically modified food or neuroscience, Cook-Deegan says. "Franken- gets appended to anything that folks think is new and potentially scary," he says. For example, transgenic salmon, which are genetically modified with eelpout DNA to grow at a 30 per cent faster rate than natural salmon, are labelled Frankenfish.

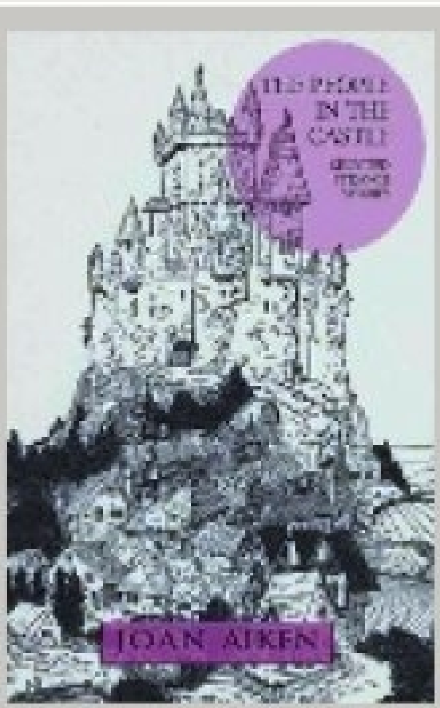
While Shelley is hailed for her innovative fusing of science with a creation myth, Frankenstein also owes much to his forebears. "Playing God has always been a subject for literature — when humans overstep the so-called bounds of what is permitted for human beings," Prose says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DARK STORIES TO READ BY THE CAMPFIRE

The Doll-Master
by Joyce Carol Oates

The master of the macabre rips inspiration from the headlines in her six tales of horror. She credits George Zimmerman (who became notorious for shooting black teen Trayvon Martin) as the inspiration for her story of a lionized convicted murderer in the story Soldier. She plumbs adolescent anxieties in the story of a disturbed loner with a lovingly cared-for collection of "found dolls" and in the independence-seeking 13-year-old girl in Big Momma, named after the story's 20-foot-long python.

JOYCE CAROL OATES
THE DOLL-MASTER



The People in the Castle
by Joan Aiken

Though the late fantastical British writer is best known for her children's literature, this short story collection, edited by Aiken's daughter Lizza and the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction finalist Kelly Link, compiles tales of the surreal and supernatural suited for an adult audience. A Leg Full of Rubies features a doctor whose own mortality is measured out by the grains of sand in an hourglass.

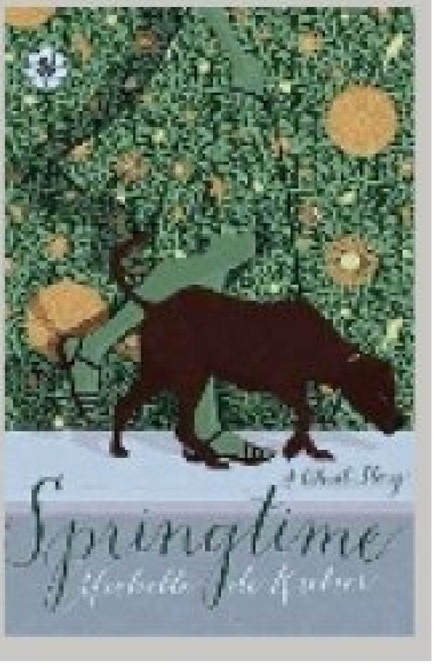
"She was one of those writers who made me think you can be funny while telling a scary story," Link says.

Springtime
by Michelle de Kretser

The sun-dappled Sydney, Australia setting is the first clue that de Kretser's novella, subtitled A Ghost Story, is no boilerplate spirit story. "In the traditional form, the ghosts must be central to the story whereas the ghost in my story appears as almost a throwaway, an afterthought," de Kretser says over the phone.

The story follows 28-year-old Franceswith her 30-kilo mutt Rod, boyfriend Charlie, his young son Luke, and the lingering presence of the wife that Charlie left behind.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Your essential daily news

After 'Scary Lucy,' Lucille Ball's hometown of Celoron, N. Y. to unveil new statue

Napa wineries go to the dogs

PETS

Love your dog? Love your wine, too? Enjoy both!

There are now a number of Napa Valley wineries where you don't have to choose between raising and spending time with Fido. Here's a sampling of wineries that welcome humans and their (well-behaved, leashed) best friends.

- **HALL St. Helena** welcomes dogs year-round and in the fall they take the wine-canine connection a step farther with Harvest Hounds, a tasting with proceeds going to Napa Humane. Reservations not required for a tasting but are required for tours plus tastings.

- **Honig Vineyard & Winery** in Rutherford has three resident dogs and welcomes other, well-behaved, canines as visitors. In fact, the bestselling book in the tasting room is about winery dogs. Treats and water for all four-legged friends are provided. Tastings by appointment only.

Jennifer Singer sits with her dog Redford, during a visit to HALL Wines in St. Helena, Calif. For those who love their dogs and their wine, there are now a number of Napa Valley wineries where you don't have to choose between the two. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- **Raymond Vineyards.** Dogs aren't just welcome at this St. Helena winery, they're feted. There's a dog "winery" dedicated to owner Jean-Charles Boisset's beloved French bulldog, named, aptly enough, Frenchie. People go inside and taste; dogs relax in outdoor shaded dog beds in the dog winery which has barrel furniture, canine portraits and a camera connected to a TV in the tasting room so owners can keep an eye on them.

- **V. Sattui Winery** in St. Helena allows dogs on leash in the tasting rooms and picnic grounds. The winery also hosts an annual "Pamper your Pooch" day in May where dogs get free treats and their humans are encouraged to post pictures of the visit.

- **St. Supery Estate Vineyards & Winery** in Rutherford has treats for your dog, and the winery's outdoor patio is a great place to kick back with your favourite canine. Who knows? You may well meet "GG," winery top dog and resident CCO (Chief Cuddle Officer). Reservations not required but are recommended.

- **Odette Estate** allows leashed dogs in outdoor tasting areas. The estate features an open patio with cushioned benches and a fire pit. By appointment only. Odette Estate's sister wineries, CADE on Howell Mountain and PlumpJack in Napa, also allow leashed dogs in their outdoor tasting areas.

- **Trefethen Family Vineyards** had to temporarily deny access to guests of the four-legged variety after damage from the 2014 earthquake forced the tasting room into temporary quarters. But the popular Rutherford winery recently welcomed dogs back with the opening of "Villa Trefethen," once home to vineyard founders Katie and Gene Trefethen, now hosting tastings in the salon, sunroom and on the deck. Reservations are required to visit the villa, but if it's midweek you can usually get in on the same day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IF YOU GO

You can find a list of dog-friendly wineries at napavintners.com

EN
Live life to the

5 ISLANDS TO VISIT NEAR GREECE AND TURKEY

The Aegean Sea — an arm of the Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey — brings to mind the whitewashed, blue-domed buildings of Santorini or the party scene of Mykonos. While they're stunners, they're also jam-packed with tourists. So you might want to consider the road — or, in this case, the sea — less travelled. The best way to explore some of the lesser-known isles of the Aegean is on a small ship that goes where large cruisers can't go and airplanes don't fly. VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO

GETTING THERE

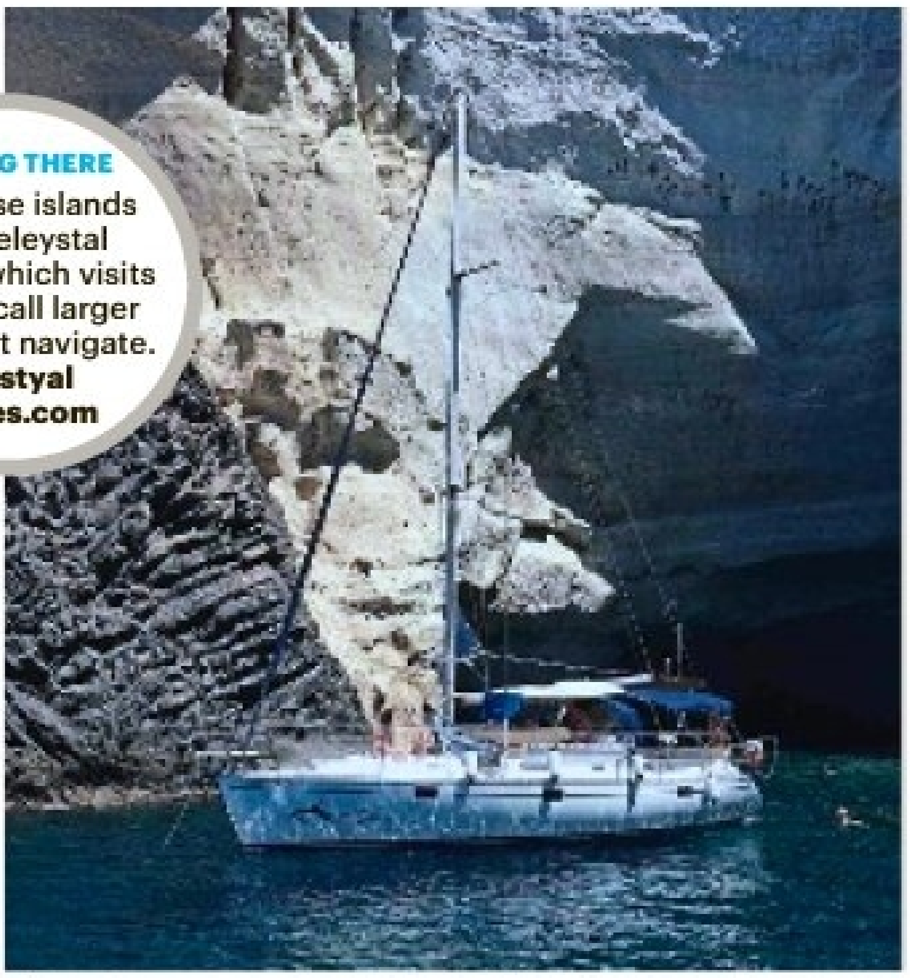
Visit these islands with Celeystal Cruises, which visits ports of call larger ships can't navigate. **celestyal cruises.com**

1 Ios

If you're looking for a party scene, head to Ios (and even if you're not, head here anyway — you can find long stretches of sandy beach that are quiet during the day while everyone else is sleeping off a hangover). Only 500 people live here year-round; the whitewashed old town is perched on a hilltop, with narrow paths and stairs that make it inaccessible to cars. Head out of town on the island's only road, which winds its way over the rugged, mountainous terrain, and you'll discover isolated beaches such as Manganari — along with 365 churches sprinkled throughout the island.

2 Samos

Most travellers bypass Samos, thinking of it as a stopover on the way to the Turkish resort town of Kusadasi. But this lush, forested isle has it all: ancient sites, tropical beaches and sweet local wine. It's the legendary birthplace of Hera, wife of Zeus, and here you'll find significant archaeological sites including the Ionian-style Temple of Hera and Pythagoreion, an ancient aqueduct considered the "eighth wonder of antiquity."



3 Milos

If you're looking for surreal, otherworldly landscapes — and some of the coolest swimming holes on the planet — head to Milos. Located in the Cyclades, this island literally rose out of the sea, thanks to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. The best way to see it? Hire a sailing boat for the day and circumnavigate the island, stopping to swim in crystal-clear water beneath cliffs and caves. On land, head to Sarakiniko, a moonscape made of piercing-white volcanic ash, with a swimming hole set amongst the dramatic rock formations. Bring your camera; you're going to want to Instagram this place.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH WAS HOSTED BY CELESTYAL CRUISES, WHICH DIDN'T REVIEW OR APPROVE THIS STORY.

4 Kos

If you're a foodie, head to Kos. This Greek isle is greener than some of its rocky neighbours, thanks to a system of underground springs — which also makes it ideal for the production of olive oil, honey and wine. Head to Zia, considered the most traditional village on the island — which also happens to have the best views, at 400 metres above sea level — to buy local olive oil, sample cinnamon liqueur and sip thick, syrupy Greek coffee. Then head to Hatziemmanouil Vineyards for award-winning Syrah from this multi-generational family winery and pick up thyme honey from local beekeepers in the village of Kefalos.

5 Cesme

If you're looking for the VIP beach club experience, head to Cesme. This coastal town along the Turkish Riviera is a popular holiday resort, with boutique hotels, high-end shopping and VIP beach clubs, like Sole & Mare (picture crisp-white loungers and bean-bag chairs shaded by beach umbrellas). While it's the place to see and be seen, the town itself is drenched in history (it marked the end of the ancient Silk Road) and is known for its thermal baths, surfing and vineyards.

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1

The robot restaurant

Despite the numerous problems that have plagued Rio, the games are nonetheless getting underway and visitors will be taking in all the city has to offer from the beaches of Ipanema to the wildlife of Tijuca National Park.

Four years from now, when Tokyo takes over as host, visitors can expect a very different experience. A trip to the popular Robot Restaurant demonstrates just how drastically different it can be.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO CANADA

① **Location** — Nestled in the heart of the Shinjuku district, the Robot Restaurant is more of a show than an actual dining establishment. And while it is certainly not the greatest show on earth, it has become a staple of the city's weird and is definitely worth a visit.

② **The show** — Once the show begins, an array of robots for which this place is so aptly named will take the stage and you will be immersed in a new world, one only a place like Tokyo could dream up. While the shows do change from time to time, you can expect to see anything from robotic sharks and dinosaurs to large and equally creepy robotic clowns.

③ **Round two** — Before you can make sense of what's unfolded in front of you, a feat you will ultimately not be able to achieve, it is intermission. Grab a snack from the equivalent of a ring girl at a boxing match and prepare for the next round of robots. A couple more acts and this strange experience has come to an end.

④ **The experience** — Promising to be both terrible and amazing at the same time, the Robot Restaurant is a place unlike any other, a place that will make you scratch your head and ask why. But ultimately, it is a place that can provide you with that quintessential Tokyo experience. And if it is any indication of Tokyo's ability to put on a show, the 2020 games are sure not to disappoint.

2

3

4

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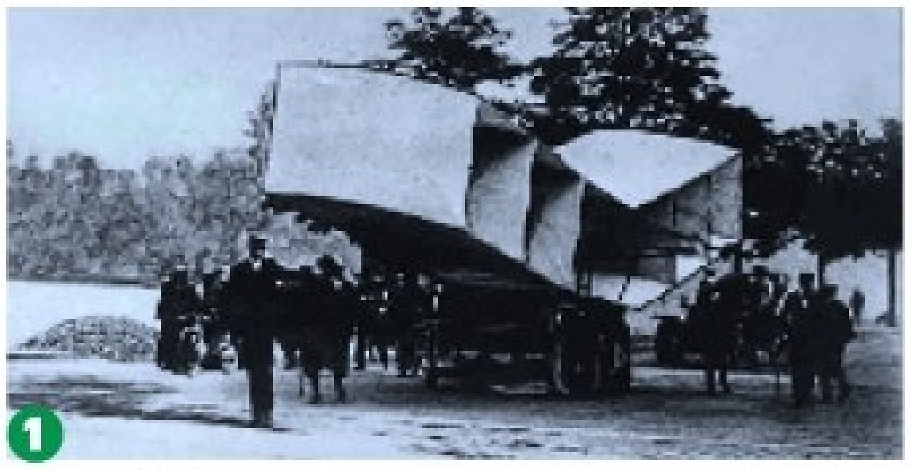
metro RIO

President of the Canadian Olympic Committee Tricia Smith was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee Thursday

5 THINGS TO WATCH FOR FRIDAY

The opening ceremony of any Olympic Games aims to showcase the culture and achievements of the host country. Metro explains five cultural references you're likely to see:

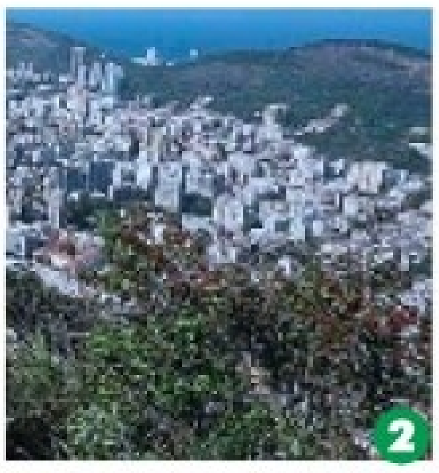
Fernando Carneiro
Metro | Toronto



①

Brazil's father of aviation

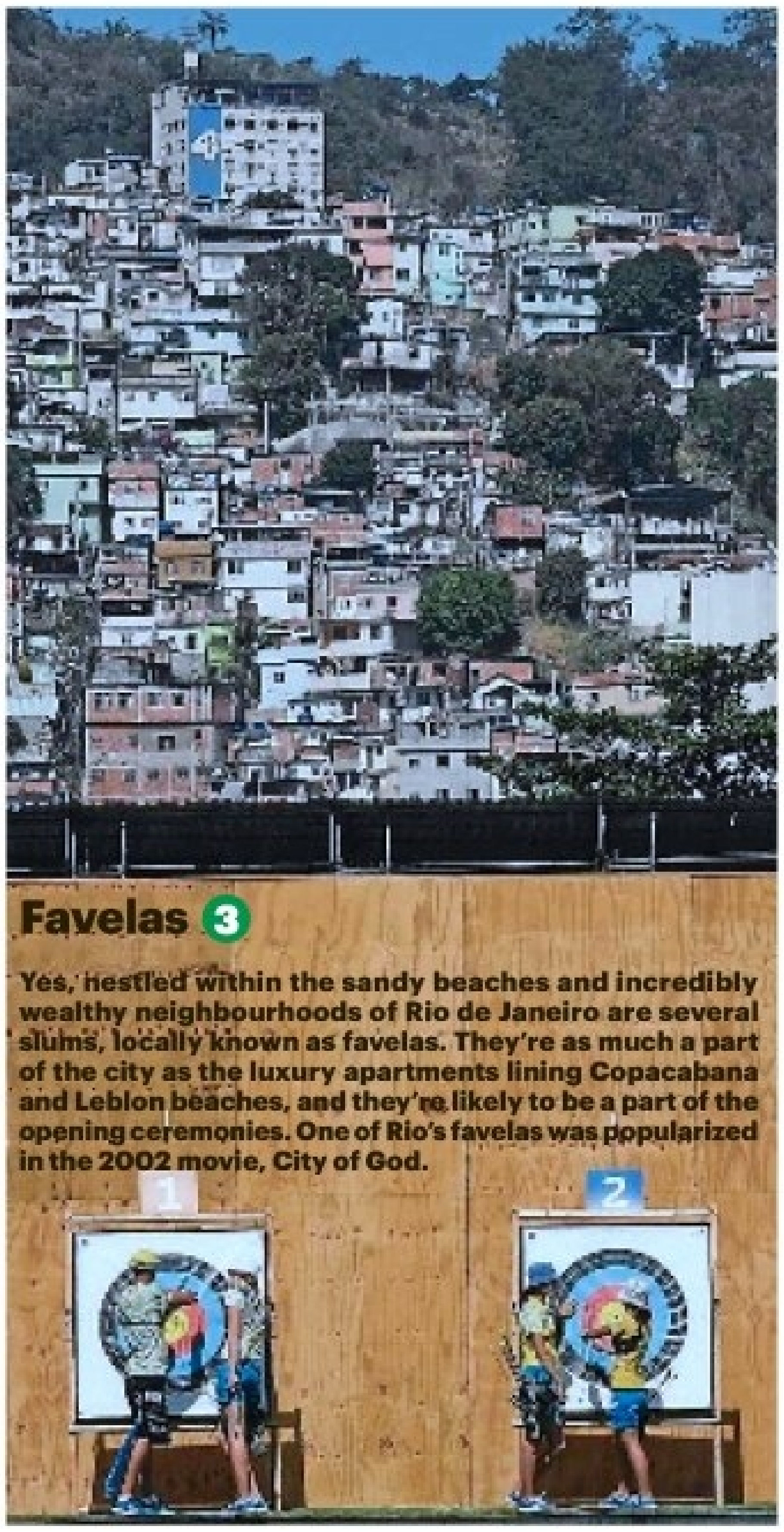
Ask any Brazilian who invented the airplane and they'll say it was Alberto Santos-Dumont, not the Wright Brothers. The Brazilian was living in France when in 1906 he flew the first powered heavier-than-air craft, the 14 Bis. He flew it around the Eiffel Tower to win a Europe-wide contest. The Wright Brothers, by contrast, flew their craft in 1903, but used a launching rail. Expect to see a replica of the 14 Bis during the opening ceremony and a tribute to Santos-Dumont.



②

Floresta da Tijuca

Tijuca Forest is the world's largest urban forest and home to hundreds of species of animals and plants, including endangered and those only found along Brazil's Atlantic Coast. Brazilians are proud of their fauna and flora and those are likely to be showcased Friday. The forest also contains a number of Rio's landmarks, including the statue of Christ the Redeemer and a peak popular with hang gliders called Pedra da Gavea.



Favelas ③

Yes, nestled within the sandy beaches and incredibly wealthy neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro are several slums, locally known as favelas. They're as much a part of the city as the luxury apartments lining Copacabana and Leblon beaches, and they're likely to be a part of the opening ceremonies. One of Rio's favelas was popularized in the 2002 movie, City of God.

④

"Marvellous City"

Rio de Janeiro's nickname is "Cidade Maravilhosa" — the marvellous city. It's also the title of a song that has become Rio's official anthem. Written in 1935, it's an ode to the city's natural beauty, although it never mentions Rio by name.

⑤

Copacabana's sidewalk

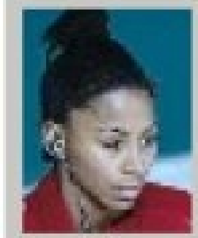
One of the iconic images of Rio is the four-kilometre long sidewalk of Copacabana beach. It was completed in 1970 and each stone that makes up the world-famous mosaic pattern was placed by hand, making every section of the sidewalk different. Most stones are black or white representing the white Europeans and black African slaves who colonized Brazil with pockets of red stones representing the indigenous people who were displaced by the newcomers.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

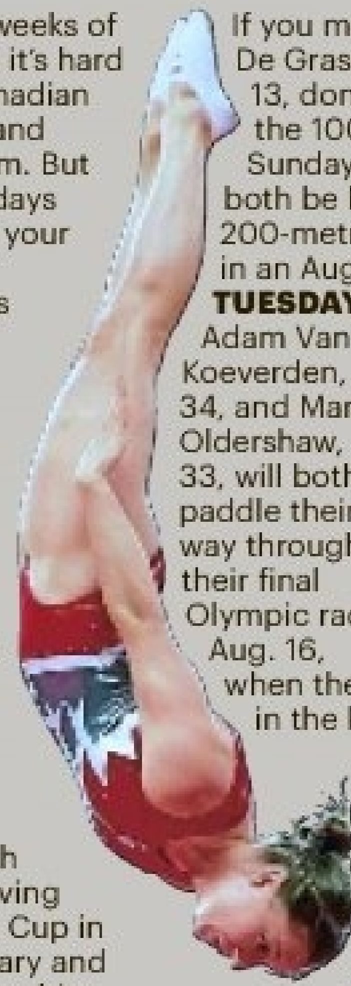
RIO days to dial in for

With nearly three weeks of events before you, it's hard to know which Canadian athletes to watch and when to catch them. But the following five days are worth clearing your schedule for.

SUNDAY: Canada's first medal could come in women's synchronized diving, on the three-metre springboard (3 p.m. ET). Jennifer Abel and Pamela Ware are ranked fourth in the world and won silver at both the diving World Cup in February and the world championships in 2015.



Jennifer Abel



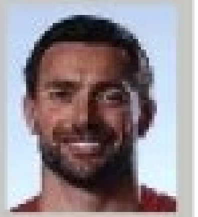
FRIDAY, AUG. 12: Trampoline gymnast and Canada's flag bearer for Friday's opening ceremony, Rosie MacLennan, pictured above, was the only Canuck to earn gold at London 2012. She's been dealing with injuries over the last year but is currently back on the rise and hoping to peak at just the right time (2:40 p.m., final).

SATURDAY, AUG. 13: Come for the men's 100-metre heats (8:30 and 11 a.m.), stay for the Canadian medal possibilities. Usain Bolt, pictured below, and Canuck competitor, Andre De Grasse, kick off one of the prestige events Saturday, racing for their spots in Sunday's final. Canada also has a good shot at a few medals on the day, with the women's eight rowing team (10 a.m.), swimmer Ryan Cochrane (9 p.m.) and Brianne Theisen-Eaton, a gold-medal hopeful in heptathlon (9:50 p.m.).

Andre De Grasse

If you miss Bolt and De Grasse on Aug. 13, don't fret: after the 100-metre final Sunday, they will both be back for the 200-metre culminating in an Aug. 18 final.

TUESDAY, AUG. 16: Adam Van Koeverden, 34, and Mark Oldershaw, 33, will both paddle their way through their final Olympic races Aug. 16, when they compete in the kayak and canoe sprints, respectively. Van Koeverden, the most decorated Canadian paddler, will go for his fifth Olympic medal in his last race, the 1000-metre kayak single. He won bronze and a gold in 2004, silver in 2008 and silver in 2012. Oldershaw is looking to add to the canoe single bronze he won in 2012.

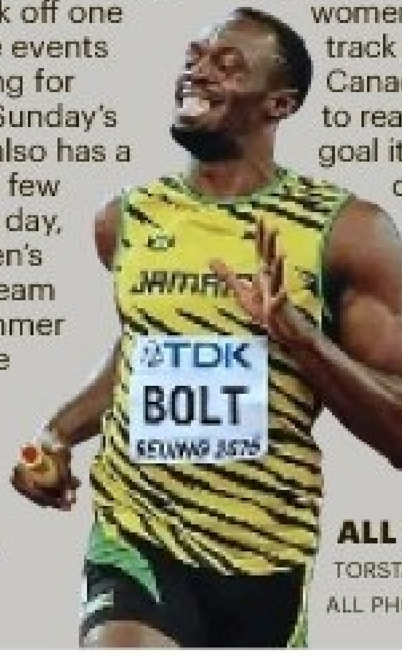


Mark Oldershaw

SATURDAY, AUG. 20: Canada is a contender for five medals through five events on the penultimate day of the Games.

Brooke Henderson

Athletes to watch include Brooke Henderson in the final round of women's golf; the women's basketball team, which could play for gold, silver or bronze; Mandy Bujold in boxing; Catharine Pendrel in mountain biking; and Melissa Bishop in the women's 800-metre track final. If the Canadian team wants to reach the 19-medal goal its Olympic committee set at the beginning of the Games, its female athletes will need to come up big toward the end of competition.



ALL TIMES ET

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

metro SPORTS

Yankees manager Joe Girardi says he doesn't know when benched Alex Rodriguez, who has started once since July 22, will play again

More Russians earn a late, late reprieve

RIO2016

Final total of 271 competitors will take part in spite of scandal

IOC President Thomas Bach. GETTY IMAGES

The IOC approved the entry of 271 Russian athletes for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics on Thursday, meaning 70 per cent of the country's original team will compete in the games after the scandal over state-sponsored doping.

Also Thursday, the IOC's rule barring Russian athletes with prior doping sanctions from competing in the Games was rejected as "unenforceable" by an Olympic sports arbitration panel. The International Olympic Committee announced the go-ahead for 271 Russian athletes on Thursday night, about 24 hours before the opening ceremony of the games.

IOC president Thomas Bach recently rejected calls from anti-doping organizations to ban Russia's entire team following a report by a World Anti-Doping Agency investigator that detailed evidence of state-directed doping and coverups.

Instead, the IOC asked international federations to examine each individual Russian athlete to determine if they should be eligible to compete. The IOC set up a panel of three executive board members to make the final call, taking into account the advice of an independent sports arbitrator.

After the review, the IOC declared in Thursday's statement: "271 athletes will form the team entered by the Russian National Olympic Committee from the original entry list of 389 athletes."

Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov told reporters earlier that 271 of his country's athletes had been cleared.

"We have good news for the fans of the Russian Olympic team," he said. "The majority of the sports have been admitted in full."

Several international federations announced separately Thursday that they had received the final approval for Russian entries in their events, including boxing, judo, equestrian, volleyball and golf.

Russia's track and field team remains barred following an earlier decision by the IAAF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO GOLDEN GOALS NEYMAR OFF TO A SLOW START Brazil star Neymar reacts after missing a chance in the men's Olympic football tournament opener against South Africa in Brasilia. The host nation struggled to break down their rivals as a tight game finished 0-0. ERALDO PERES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pitcher Joakim Soria of the Kansas City Royals reacts after giving up a three-run home run to Brad Miller of Tampa Bay during the eighth inning Thursday. BRIAN BLANCO/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Royals not looking very regal anymore

The World Series champion Kansas City Royals had another tough loss in what is shaping up as a disappointing season.

Brad Miller hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Royals 3-2 on Thursday.

Kansas City (51-57) split the four-game series after winning the first two games, and the loss dropped the Royals 11 games behind AL Central-leading Cleveland, which beat Minnesota 9-2.

"I know it's frustrating to everybody," said Ian Kennedy, who allowed one hit in six-plus innings. Miller's 19th homer was a drive off Joakim Soria (4-5), who gave up three of the Rays' overall four hits.

"We're lucky to have him, and it doesn't matter where plays," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said. "We know his bat plays."

Kanas City dropped to 40-2 when ahead after seven innings.

Brad Boxberger (1-0) worked out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the eighth, and Alex Colome got his 26th save in 27 chances despite giving up two hits during the ninth. Drew Smyly allowed two runs, five hits in seven innings and struck out 10.

"Bases loaded and one out. ... A tack-on run there is huge," Royals manger Ned Yost said of the eighth. Kennedy walked four and had nine strikeouts. Alex Gordon hit his eighth home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STAYING PUT

Aaron Sanchez isn't going anywhere. The Toronto Blue Jays dominant young right-hander will remain in the team's starting rotation and not move to the bullpen, according to general manager Ross Atkins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Comforts of home help Kelly early on

Jerry Kelly played off the emotion of what he considers a home crowd Thursday in the Travelers Championship, shooting a 6-under 64 for a share of the lead with Vaughn Taylor and Andrew Loupe.

The 49-year-old Kelly played at the nearby University of Hartford. Headed to the PGA Tour Champions after this season, Kelly won the last of his three PGA Tour titles in 2009.

"I'm not that man who has people constantly yelling wherever I go," Kelly said. "I kind of take those good vibes and run with it. It's fun."

Loupe and Taylor went out early, when relatively soft greens and little wind helped the scoring.

The biggest galleries of the day watched U.S. Olympians Bubba Watson (67), Matt Kuchar (69) and Patrick Reed (70). They went out as a trio and were serenaded with chants of "USA! USA!"

Nick Taylor, of Abbotsford, B.C., is tied for 24th after an opening round 68 while fellow Adam Hadwin finished with a 70. Derek Gillespie (72), of Oshawa, Ont., is at 2 over. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Westbrook to stay with OKC for $86M

A month after Kevin Durant broke Oklahoma City's heart, Russell Westbrook has reaffirmed his desire to stay with the Thunder.

The team confirmed Thursday that Westbrook had signed a contract extension. A person with direct knowledge of the terms said the two sides had agreed on a new three-year deal worth $85.7 million.

"I am grateful to extend my contract with the Thunder and continue to play with the only organization that I have played for and have loved being a part of since I was drafted into the NBA," Westbrook said in a statement.

The 27-year-old Westbrook is one of the top stars in the NBA and piled up 18 triple-doubles last season, tying Magic Johnson for the most in the last 30 years. The five-time All-Star averaged 23.5 points, 7.8 rebounds and 10.4 assists last season as the Thunder reached the Western Conference finals, in which they lost in seven games to the Golden State Warriors after jumping to a 3-1 series lead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **I'm excited about moving forward with this group.**
> Russell Westbrook

Red mist won't turn back Crimson Tide

NCAA FOOTBALL

Coach Saban adamant team can handle its off-field issues

Alabama opened pre-season camp in the wake of several summer arrests and departures and with a quarterback competition still going strong.

Despite all that, the challenges remain pretty typical for the defending U.S. champions and have little or nothing to do with talent. There was no shortage of that when the Crimson Tide opened camp Thursday in the stifling heat of Alabama summers — and Alabama's falls.

Coach Nick Saban still had some off-the-field matters to address when he took the podium since it hasn't entirely been a smooth ride since winning his fourth national title at 'Bama.

The Tide is facing some backlash over a decision to prevent recent graduate defensive back Maurice Smith from transferring to another Southeastern Conference school — Georgia. That's drawn more headlines than the quarterback situation this week.

"We support the SEC rule of not granting guys' releases to go to other SEC schools," Saban said. "It has been our policy here not to do that unless there was a special circumstance."

Two young players — receiver Daylon Charlot and linebacker Christian Bell — have announced plans to transfer in the past couple of weeks, and junior college transfer offensive tackle Charles Baldwin was dismissed in May.

Meanwhile, three summertime suspensions won't necessarily carry over into the season. Defensive lineman Dalvin Tomlinson said it wasn't a distraction in the offseason either.

"It's easy to deal with because you know what you have to come in here and do day to day, and you can't let the off-the-field situations affect you off the field or on the field," Tomlinson said.

Saban's not going to rush to judgment on the quarterback battle, which carries over into pre-season camp for the third straight year. This time it's 2015 backup Cooper Bateman, redshirt freshman Blake Barnett and sophomore David Cornwell vying to replace Jake Coker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$7M

Nick Saban's contract as Alabama coach pays him $6.9 million per year and currently runs until 2022.

Alabama defensive back Anthony Averett, left, and defensive back Marlon Humphrey during practice in Tuscaloosa.
BRYNN ANDERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Qatar consider booze ban
The hooliganism at the European Championship in France could affect the availability of alcohol at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. France's need to impose bans on alcohol sales has aided Qatar as it seeks to balance local customs with providing a welcoming environment in the first World Cup in the Middle East. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court backs NFL on A.P.
A federal appeals court has ruled that the NFL was within its rights when it suspended Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson in 2014 after he was charged with child abuse. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said an arbitrator acted appropriately by upholding the suspension of Peterson for six games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fernando fuels Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka seam bowler Vishwa Fernando took a wicket from only his second ball in test cricket on Thursday as Australia reached 54-2 at stumps on the first day of the second test. Fernando had Joe Burns caught by Kusal Perera, with the tourists still to score. Sri Lanka was earlier all out for 281 in its first innings and leads Australia by 227 runs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rodgers' backup hurting
The new backup for Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is a little hobbled. Brett Hundley has an ankle injury that was expected to keep him out of practice a second straight night Thursday. His injury could impact plans for the game against the Colts on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Eggs with Mushrooms

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you've got eggs in the fridge, dinner is only ever a few minutes away. Just add some sliced mushrooms, a bit of grated cheese and you've got an easy, light meal.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves: 2

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 tsp fresh thyme (maybe 1/2 tsp if you're using dried)
- 1/2 cup Fontina cheese, grated
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

2. In a small-ish, oven-safe pan, melt your butter over medium heat. Add the garlic, mushrooms and thyme. Allow the mushrooms to soften for about 3 minutes.

3. Sprinkle the grated cheese evenly across the mushrooms.

4. Now crack the eggs, side by side, over all of it. Slide the pan right into a hot oven. Ten minutes will give you firm whites and slightly runny yolks. Eggs are a very personal business so keep an eye on them! Serve with warm, buttered toast.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14			■	15						■	16			
17			18							■	19			
■	■	20			■	■	21			22				
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52				■	53			54	55				56	57
58				■	59						■	60		
61				■	62						■	63		

ACROSS
1. The _ (Nickname of Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak)
4. Peter of "The Lion in Winter" (1968)
10. Rock band, with Bon
14. 'Friend' in Paris
15. 'Back to _': James Blunt album
16. Metamorphoses poet
17. Sternwheeler ship attraction in Whitehorse, _._ _ National Historic Site of Canada
19. Treason, _ majesty
20. Yachter's 'yes'
21. Norfolk's state
23. Caesar's 106
24. Most like Ebenezer
26. 'Royal' inlet in Nunavut: 2 wds.
28. "Days of _ Lives"
29. Winged
30. '60s band for Irish singer Van Morrison
34. Most often
36. Medieval battle weapon
39. Dick Tracy's beloved
40. Floating marker on the water
41. Fixed, as a date
42. Toronto's outdoor concert venue since 1995, Molson Canadian _
47. Aubergines
49. Verify a Vice Presidential pick
50. Type of baseball throw
51. Blokes
52. Fred Flintstone's 'fido'
53. Doing the work of Gilligan's best friend, say
58. Almond hue
59. _ tasks (Chores of drudgery)
60. Uniondale-based NHL team [acronym]
61. Component of choreography
62. Money: French
63. Collective Soul tune

DOWN
1. Occurred
2. Mantric syllables
3. Olympic athlete's dropping-out-of-Rio reason: 2 wds.
4. Double-reed woodwind
5. Downing Street number
6. Unpaired
7. French actor Mr. Martinez
8. Wayne Gretzky when he was a hockey player, e.g.: 2 wds.
9. Crop up
10. Happy-sounding city northeast of Montreal
11. GE products
12. Sojourn
13. Thought
18. Eagles hit: "_' Eyes"
22. _ rummy
23. Earthenware jar
24. Hawk
25. Cafeteria order holder
26. Sulk
27. Low-_ (Diet food)
31. Hurrying
32. Overwork
33. Apportion
35. Together, like teams: 3 wds.
36. Golf tap
37. Aahs cousins
38. Caustic solution
40. Book's construction part
43. US speedometer meas.
44. TV type
45. Yearn
46. Declare with conviction
47. Force the tenants from the property
48. Category
50. John Keats works
51. Be an ice cube, do this in the sun
54. _ chart
55. Chef's need
56. Bill 'The Science Guy' _
57. Canadian country singer Mr. Grand

✶ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ **Aries** March 21 - April 20
This is a positive, happy day at work. Many of you will have work-related travel or opportunities to talk to people from other cultures and different countries.

♉ **Taurus** April 21 - May 21
It's Friday, and this is a fun-loving day! Enjoy a long lunch hour if you can. Accept all invitations to party, and enjoy sports events and playful times with children.

♊ **Gemini** May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day to explore real-estate deals. It's also a good day to buy things for your home or for a family member. Many of you will entertain at home as well. Enjoy!

♋ **Cancer** June 22 - July 23
You're in such a positive frame of mind today that everyone will want to see your face. Enjoy schmoozing with others, especially siblings and relatives.

♌ **Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a good day for business and commerce. Look for ways to boost your income or get a better job. You feel hopeful about your financial future.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a positive day for you, because the Moon is lined up with lucky Jupiter. This makes you sympathetic to others as well as generous.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your concern for those who are less fortunate is genuine today. If you can help someone, you will. (Consider this a rewarding opportunity for yourself as well.)

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will enjoy the company of friends and groups today, because people are in such a positive frame of mind. You especially will enjoy working with charitable organizations.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today. Because of this, you might want to ask for a favor or for approval for something.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Travel of any kind will appeal to you today, because you want to expand your horizons. You're also hungry for knowledge and have a sense of adventure.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is an excellent day to benefit from the wealth and resources of others. People might give you gifts or do favours for you. You also can benefit indirectly through your partner.

♓ **Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
Relations with partners and close friends are warm and cozy today. You feel fortunate to have these people in your life.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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2	1	4	3	5	6	9	7	8
8	5	7	9	4	2	6	3	1
6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4	2
3	8	6	4	2	9	7	1	5
5	7	2	1	6	8	3	9	4
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6
1	2	9	7	8	5	4	6	3
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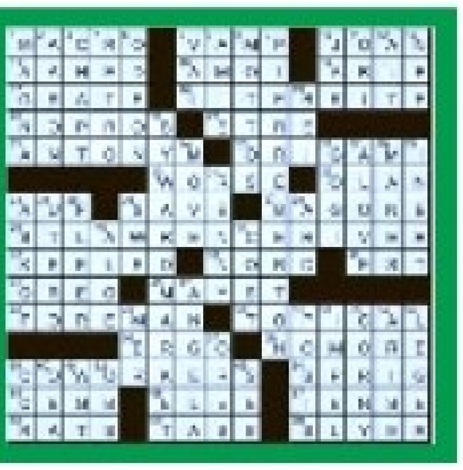

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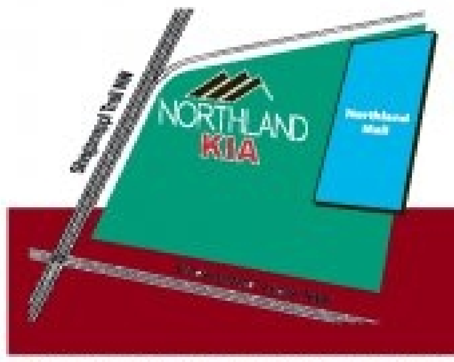

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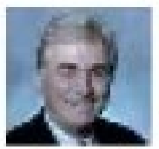
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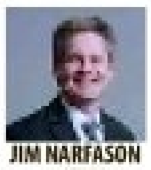
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